



CHILDREN'S WORLD ATLAS



The atlas that brings the world and its people to life

Revised and
Updated



ARCTIC OCEAN





A R C T I C
O C E A N





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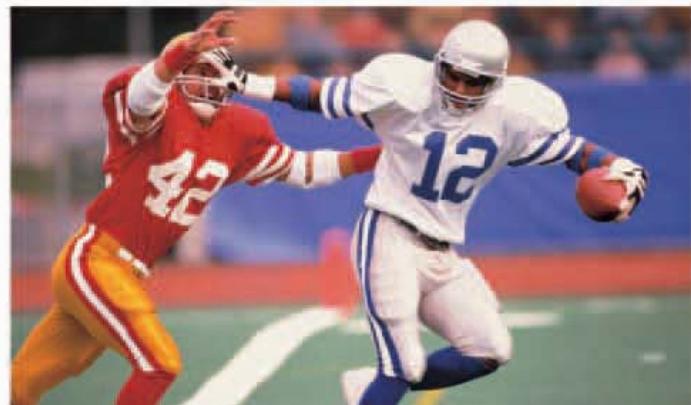
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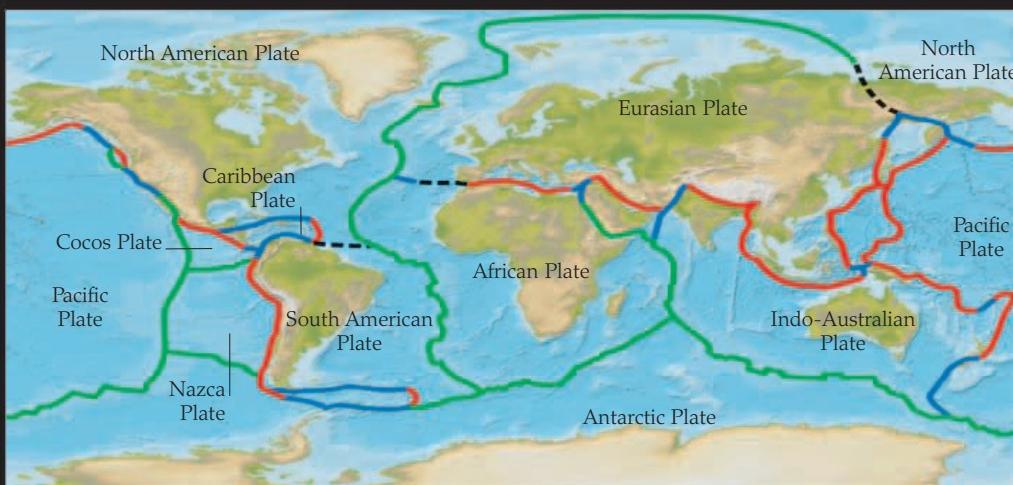
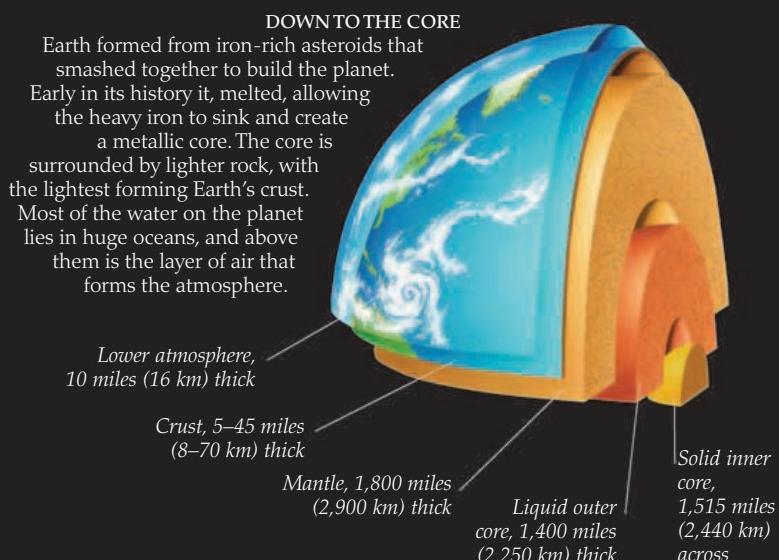


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Active Planet

EARTH IS A DYNAMIC PLANET that is always changing its form. Heat generated by nuclear reactions deep below the surface creates hugely powerful currents that keep Earth's rocks on the move, triggering earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Meanwhile, solar energy striking the planet in different ways creates currents in the air, driving the atmospheric turmoil of the weather. This changes with the seasons and from place to place, creating an enormous range of climates and habitats for the most dynamic element of all—life.

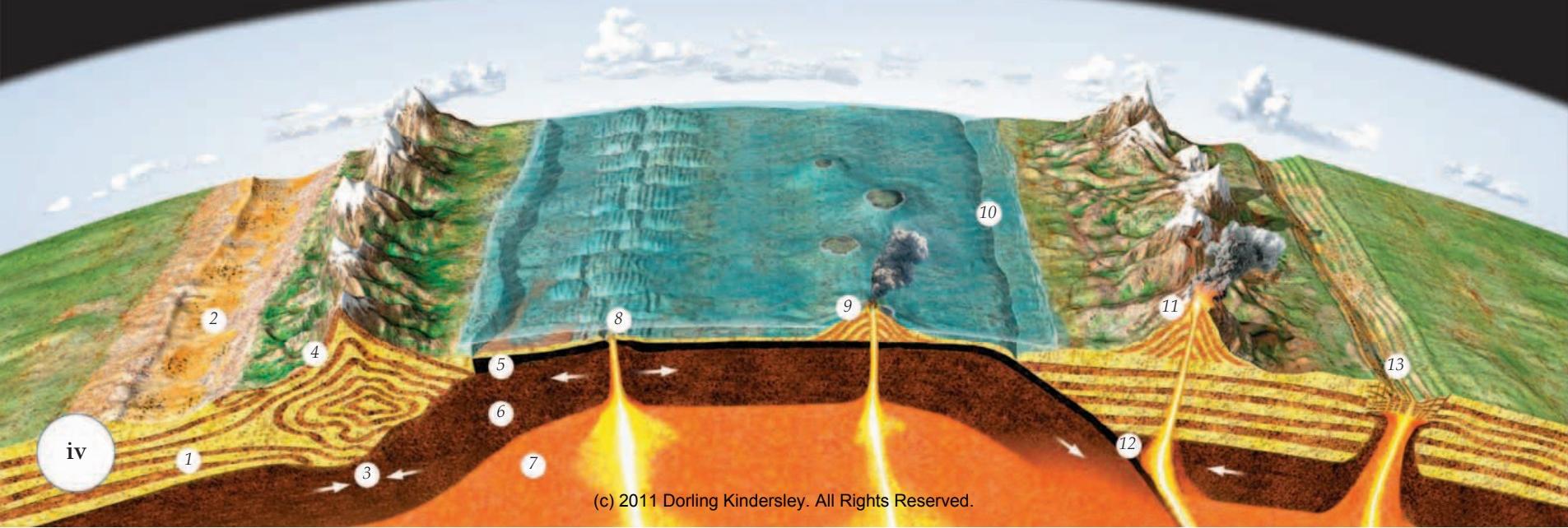


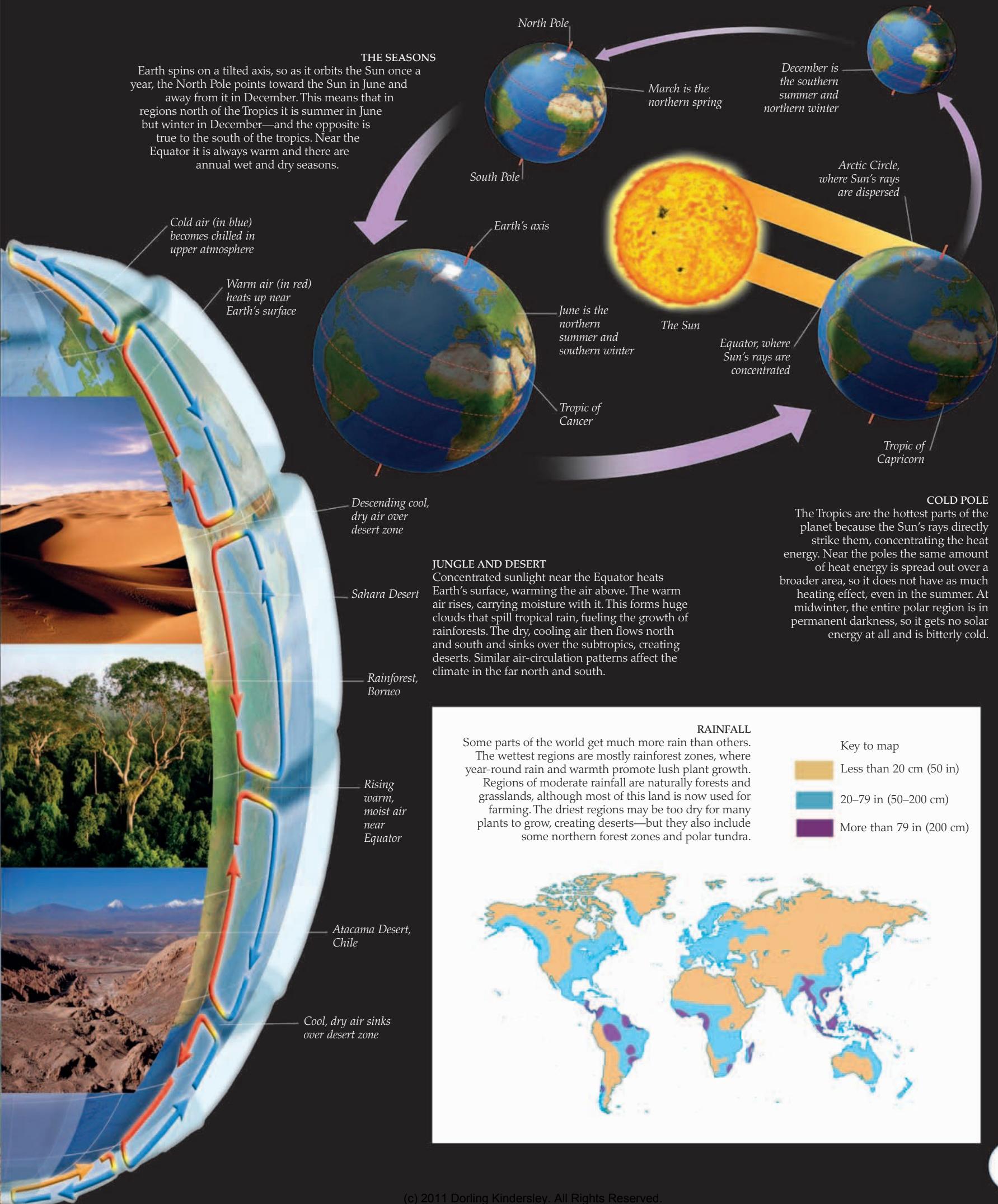
THE PLATES OF EARTH'S CRUST
Heat generated deep within the planet creates currents in the mobile mantle rock beneath the crust. These currents drag some sections of the cool, brittle crust apart while pushing other parts together, fracturing the crust into separate plates. The biggest of these span oceans and continents, but there are many smaller plates. At their boundaries the plates may be diverging (pulling apart), converging (pushing together), or sliding past each other at transform faults.

Key to map
— Transform fault — Divergent boundary
— Uncertain boundary — Convergent boundary

WHERE MOVING PLATES MEET
The boundaries between the plates are volcanic earthquake zones. The plates move very slowly, pulling apart at divergent boundaries. This allows hot rock below to melt, erupt, and cool to form new crust – especially at the spreading rifts that form mid-ocean ridges. Meanwhile, at convergent boundaries, one plate slides beneath another, pushing up mountain ranges and making volcanoes erupt. Other volcanoes erupt over hot spots in the mantle below the crust.

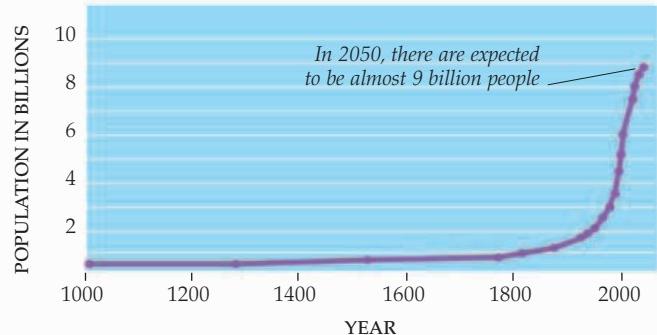
- 1 Continental crust, much thicker than oceanic crust
- 2 Broad basin formed near uplifted area
- 3 Ancient converging boundary, now inactive
- 4 Mountains created when plate boundary was active
- 5 Oceanic crust formed from heavy basalt rock
- 6 Upper mantle, mostly solid but very hot
- 7 Mantle, solid but mobile owing to heat currents
- 8 Spreading rift forming a mid-ocean ridge
- 9 Hot-spot volcano erupting over mantle plume
- 10 Ocean trench marking convergent plate boundary
- 11 Volcano erupting over convergent boundary
- 12 Earthquake zone—one plate grinding under another
- 13 Plates pulling apart, creating a rift valley





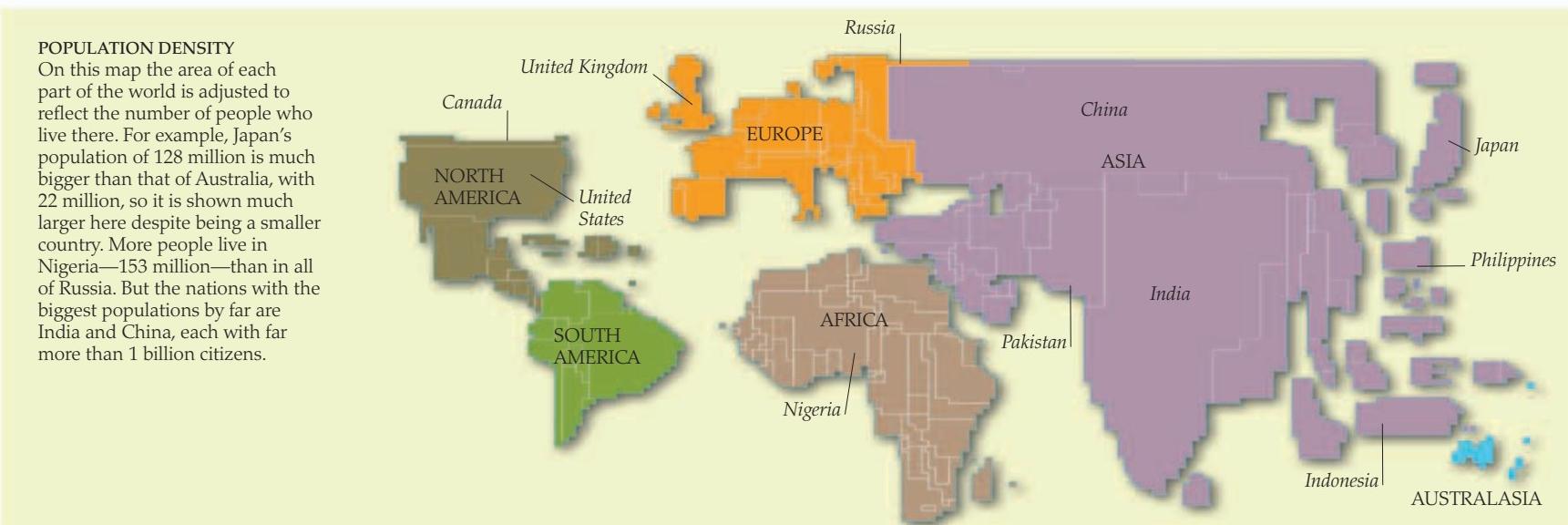
Planet People

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE PLANET has quadrupled since 1900. A lot of this growth has taken place in the developing world, which is now home to more than 80 percent of the population. Many of these people are very poor and do not enjoy the living conditions that most citizens of the developed world take for granted. This is changing, however, especially in nations such as China, India, and Brazil. Here, new technology and international trade are fueling rapid economic growth that is transforming how people live. But as more of the planet's people demand more of its scarce resources, there may be some difficult challenges ahead.



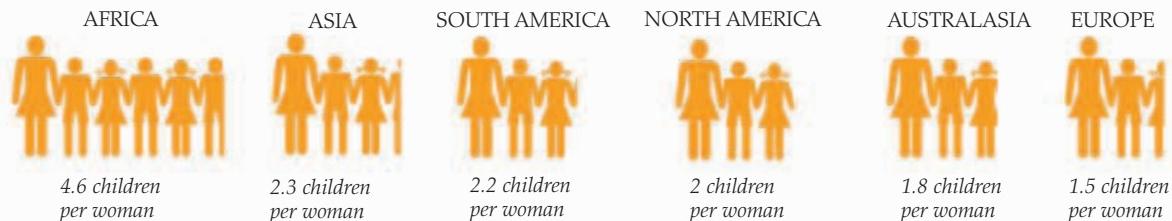
POPULATION INCREASE

For centuries, the number of people on the planet stayed the same, at roughly 300 million. But since the 1750s, better living conditions and health care have allowed more babies to survive, causing a population explosion. In only 60 years from 1950, the population soared from 2.5 billion to 6.8 billion. It will keep growing, but probably not quite so fast.



FAMILY SIZE

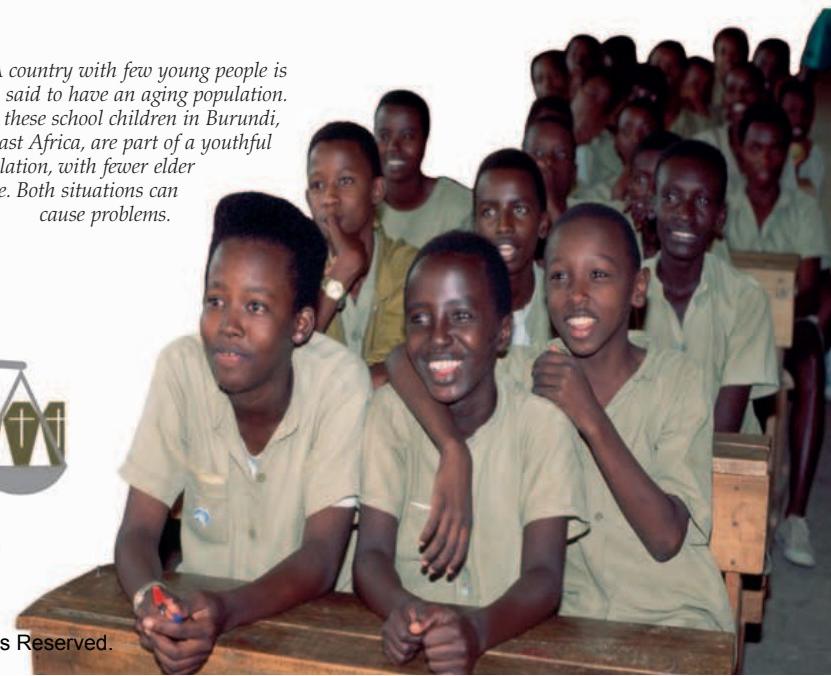
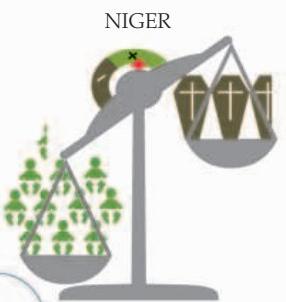
All over the world, some women have more children than others, but the average varies from continent to continent. European women have 1.5 children on average, so two families may have three children between them. This is much fewer than in Africa, where the population is growing faster despite higher death rates among children. Worldwide, the average is 2.6—more than enough to replace both parents.



BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

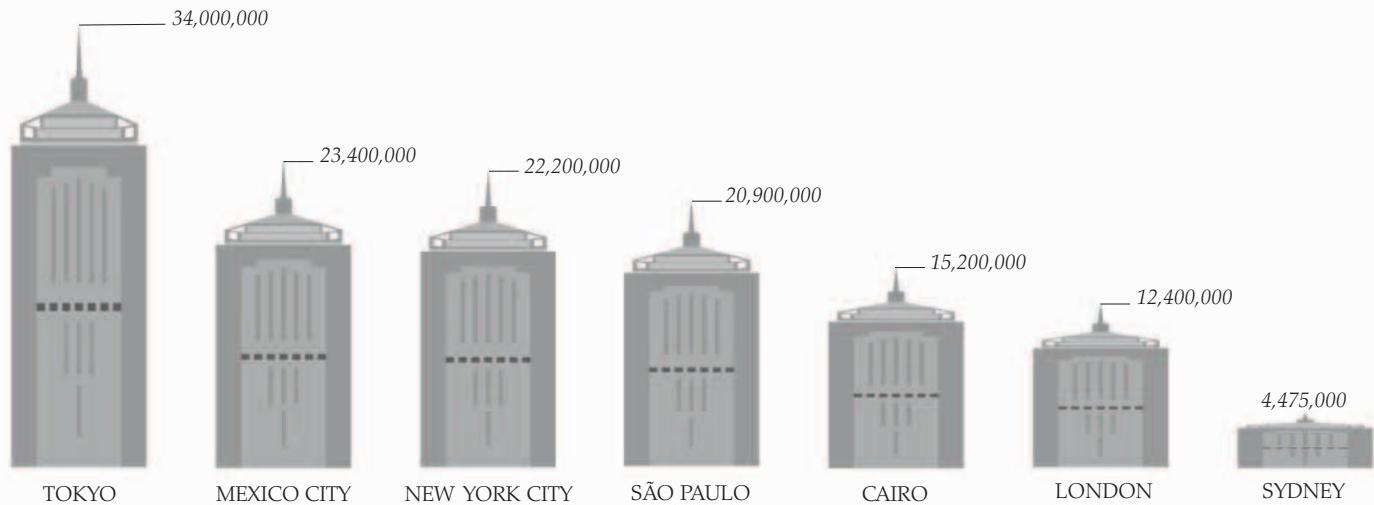
If the birth rate is the same as the death rate, the population stays the same. But in most countries, the birth rate is higher. In Niger, west Africa, there are 50.6 births but only 13.1 deaths per 1,000 people, and the population is growing at 4 percent a year. Brazil's population is also growing, with 14.2 births compared to 6.5 deaths. By contrast, Lithuania has a shrinking population, with 9.9 births outweighed by 13.8 deaths.

A country with few young people is said to have an aging population. But these school children in Burundi, east Africa, are part of a youthful population, with fewer older people. Both situations can cause problems.



CITY POPULATIONS

As populations grow, people tend to move from the country to a city to find work. Today one third of the world's people live in cities, which grow bigger every year. Some are colossal, like Tokyo, Japan—the largest city in Asia. The other cities shown here are the most populous on each continent. They are vibrant centers of civilization, but some cities are fringed by sprawling shantytowns, where poor people live in makeshift shacks with no public health services or clean water.

**LANGUAGES**

These are the 10 most common languages worldwide, sized in proportion to the number of native speakers. Chinese outstrips the others because China has such a huge population. But Spanish comes next because it is the main language of many Latin American countries, such as Mexico. English is almost as common, thanks mostly to it being the language of the United States. It is also used as an international language for trade.



*Christianity
2.1 billion*

*Islam
1.5 billion*

*Hinduism
900 million*

*Chinese traditional
394 million*

*Buddhism
376 million*

*Indigenous
300 million*

*African traditional
100 million* *Others
97.7 million*

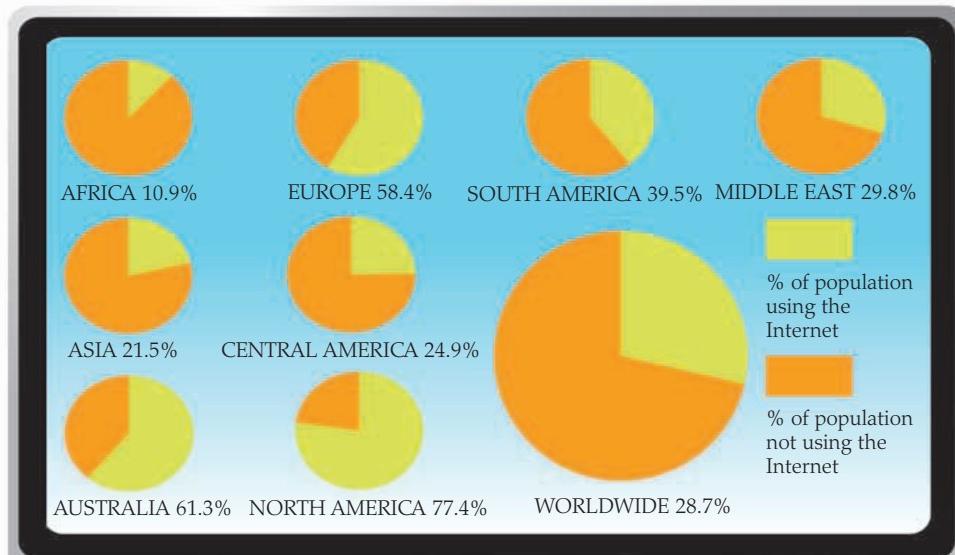
Others	23 million
Sikhism	19 million
Juche	15 million
Spiritism	14 million
Judaism	7 million
Baha'i	4.2 million
Jainism	4 million
Shinto	4 million
Cao Đài	2.6 million
Zoroastrianism	2 million
Tenrikyo	1 million
Neo-Paganism	800,000
Unitarian	600,000
Universalism	500,000
Rastafarianism	
Scientology	

RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS

Almost three fourths of the world's population are followers of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, or Buddhism. But many people follow other faiths, especially in China, where the traditional folk religion, Shenism, is practiced by almost one third of the huge population. The "indigenous" and "African traditional religions" data points are both groupings of different, but similar, religions. Others are listed at the far right, in order of popularity.

ONLINE ACCESS

Over the 10 years, the Internet has become a vital tool for global business, education, and politics, so the more people who can use it, the better. These charts show the percentage of people with Internet access both worldwide and in particular regions. North America, Australia, and Europe lead the field, but the number of Internet users is growing fastest in the Middle East and Africa.



WEALTH

A country's wealth is usually measured in terms of the money it earns divided by the number of its citizens living both at home and overseas. This is called its gross national product (GNP) per capita. Qatar in the Middle East has huge wealth generated by exports of oil and natural gas, and since it has a small population, its GNP per capita is very high. Burundi in east Africa has only one thirtieth of the income of Qatar divided between seven times as many people, so its GNP per capita is very low.

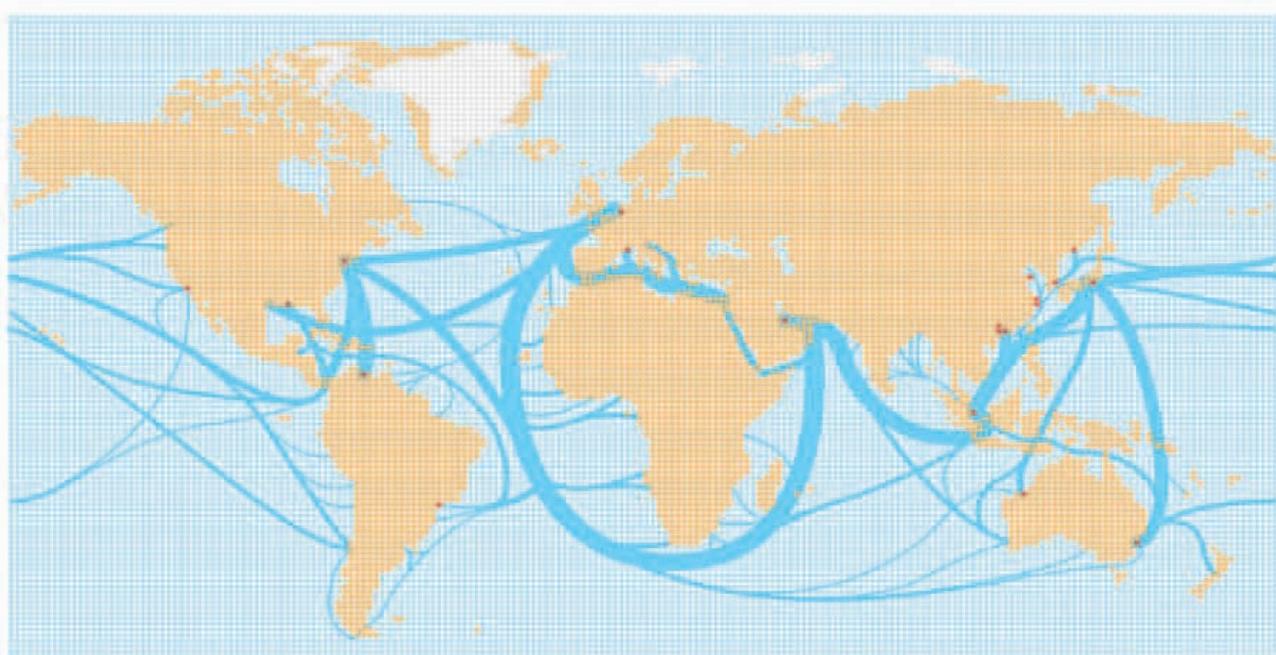
**BUSIEST AIRPORTS**

Air travel has expanded hugely since the 1950s, when international air travel was a luxury enjoyed by a few wealthy people known as the "jet set." Today, flying is often the most economical way to travel, as well as the quickest. This is reflected in the vast number of passengers who pass through the world's airports as they travel for business or pleasure. The busiest airport is Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, with more than 90 million people arriving and departing each year.

**TRADE**

Although air freight is an important part of international trade, about 80 percent of cargo by weight is transported by sea. This adds up to around 8.8 billion tons of freight. A lot of this is transported in containers carried by more than 4,700 container ships. The busiest shipping routes link Europe and North America with the Middle East and Far East, with ports such as Singapore, Shanghai (China), Dubai (U.A.E.), and Rotterdam (Netherlands) handling most of the trade.

Traffic in millions of tonnes



Mapping the World

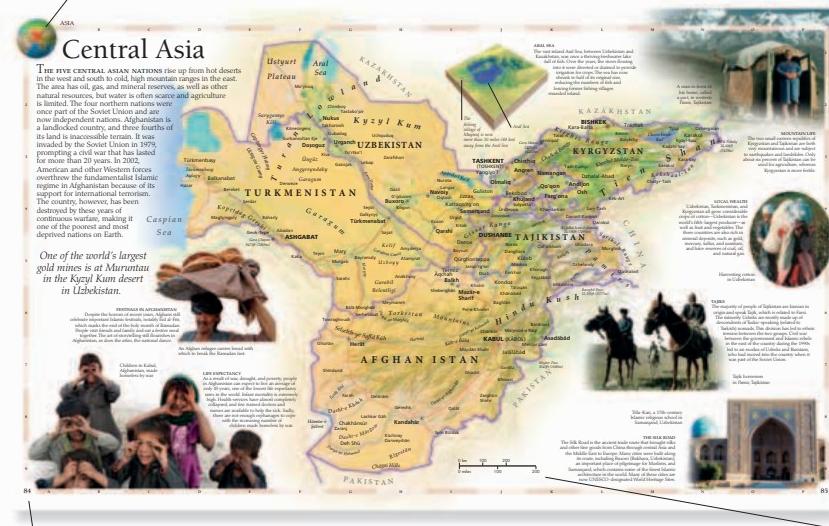
ABOUT THE ATLAS

This atlas is divided into six continental sections—North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australasia and Oceania. Each country—or group of countries—then has its own map that shows cities, towns, and main geographical features such as rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges. Photographs and text provide detailed information about life in that country—its people, traditions, politics, and economy. Each continental section has a different colored border to help you locate that section. There is also a gazetteer (place-name index) and an index to help you access information.



MAP LOCATER

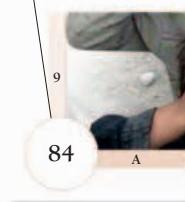
This map shows, in red, the location of each country, part of a country, or group of countries in relation to the entire planet. There is a locator for each map in the book.



FOREIGN NAMES

Features on the maps are generally labeled in the language of that country. For example, you will see:

Lake on English-speaking countries
Lago on Spanish-speaking countries
Lac on French-speaking countries
However, if a feature is wellknown or mentioned in the main text on the page, it will appear there in English so that readers can easily find it.



USING THE GRID REFERENCES

The letters and numbers around the outside of the page form a grid to help you find places on the map. For example, to find Kabul, look up its name in the gazetteer (pp. 112–133) and you'll find the reference 85 J7. The first number is the page and the letter and number refer to the square made by following up or down from J and across from 7 to form J7.

KEY TO MAP SYMBOLS

BORDERS

- International border: Border between countries which is mutually recognized.
- State border: Border used in some large countries to show internal divisions.
- Disputed border: Border used in practice, but not mutually agreed between two countries.
- Claimed border: Border which is not mutually recognized – where territory belonging to one country is claimed by another.
- Ceasefire line
- Undefined boundary

PHYSICAL FEATURES

- Mountain
- Depression
- Volcano
- Pass/Tunnel
- Major river
- Minor river
- Seasonal river
- Dam
- Canal
- Waterfall
- Seasonal lake
- Site of interest
- Ancient wall

COMMUNICATIONS

- Highway
- Major road
- Minor road
- Rail
- Airport

TOWNS & CITIES

- More than 500,000
- 100,000 – 500,000
- 50,000 – 100,000
- Less than 50,000
- National capital
- Internal administrative capital
- Polar research station

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE

- Equator
- Tropics/Circles

NAMES

REGIONS

FRANCE

- JERSEY (to UK) Dependent territory
- KANSAS Administrative region
- Dordogne Cultural region

TOWNS & CITIES

- PARIS** National capital
- SAN JUAN** Dependent territory capital city

Seattle

Limón

Genk

San José

- Other towns & cities

NAMES *continued*

PHYSICAL

Andes

Landscape features

Ardennes

Island group

Balearic Islands

Island

Majorca

Lake/River /Canal

PACIFIC OCEAN

Gulf of Mexico

Sea features

Bay of Campeche

Undersea feature

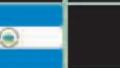
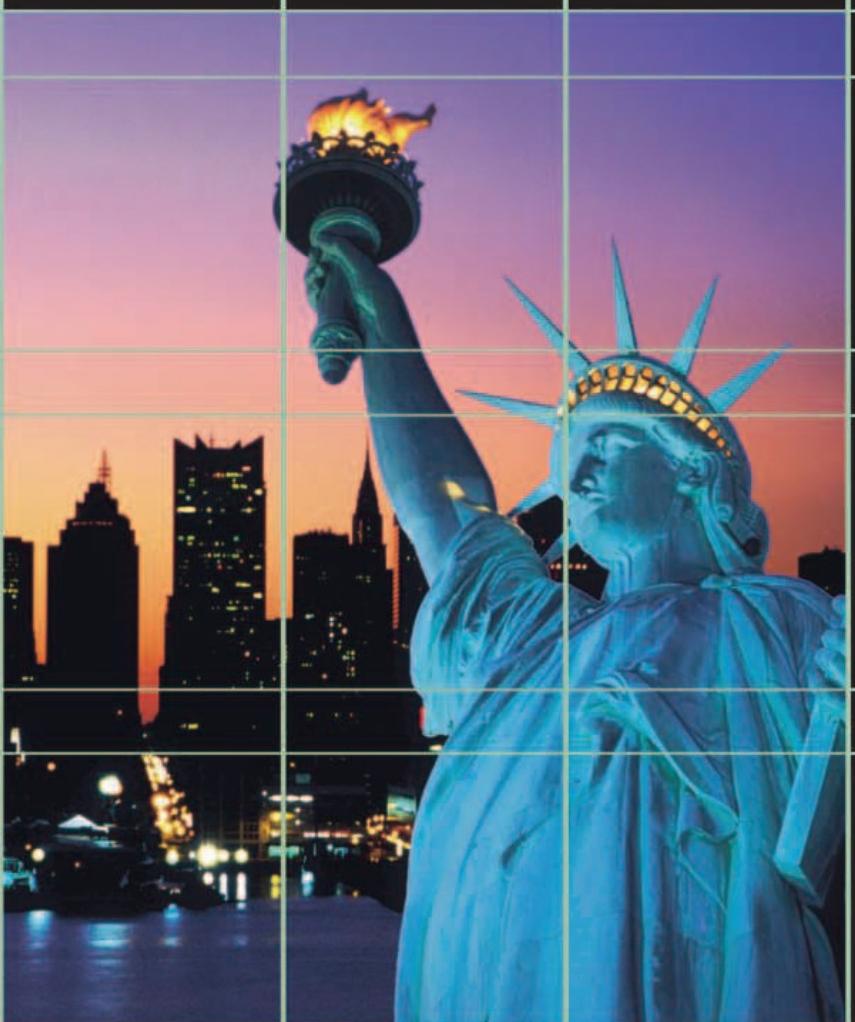
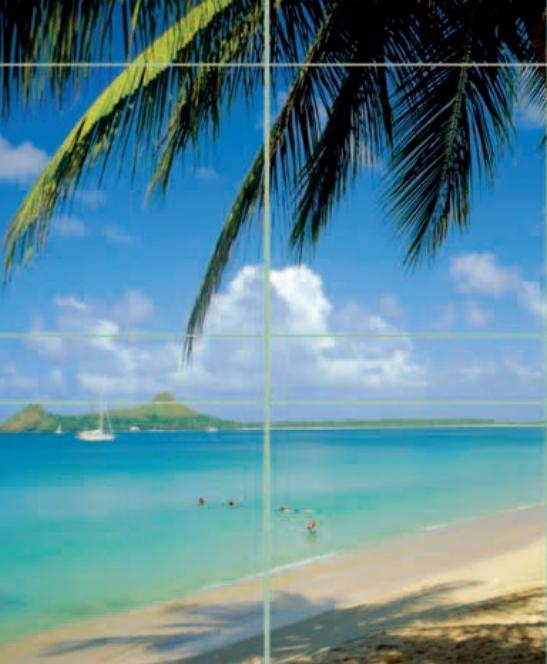
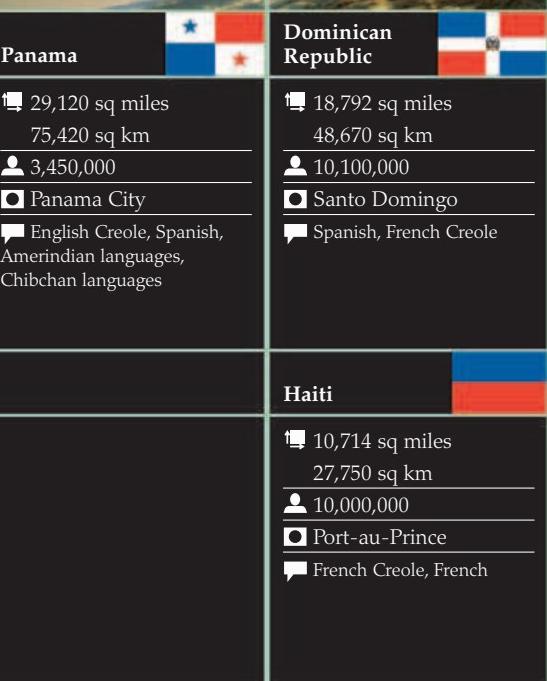
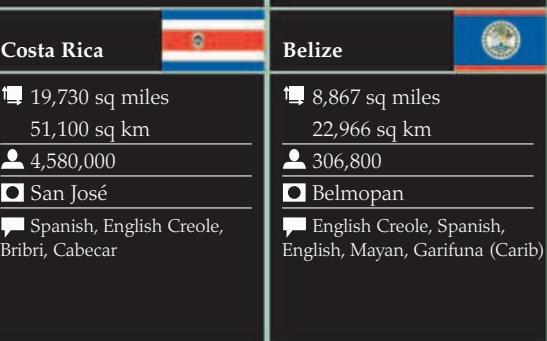
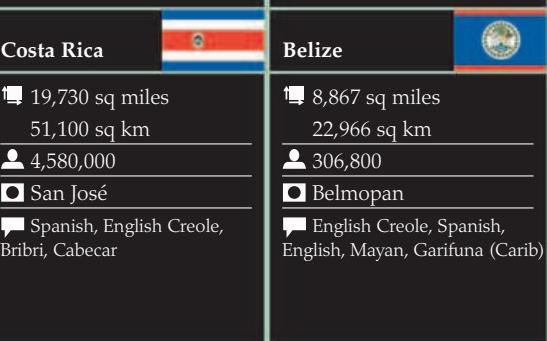
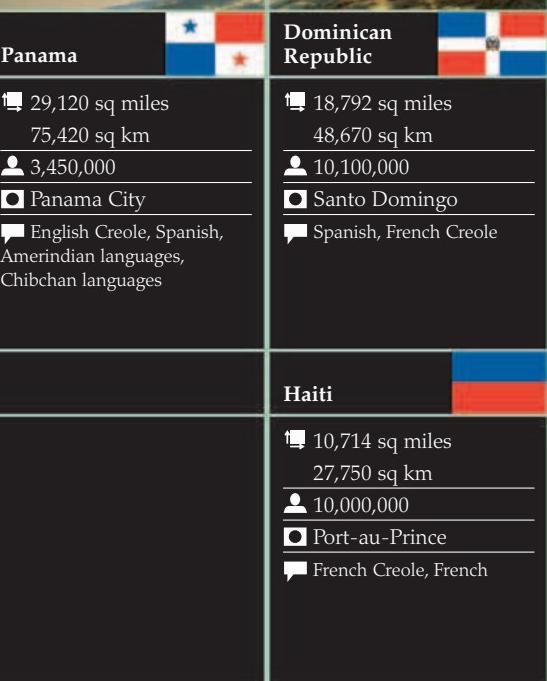
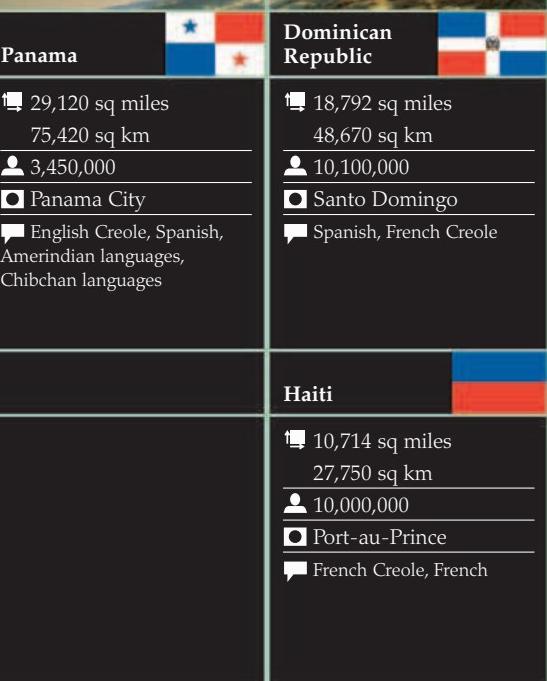
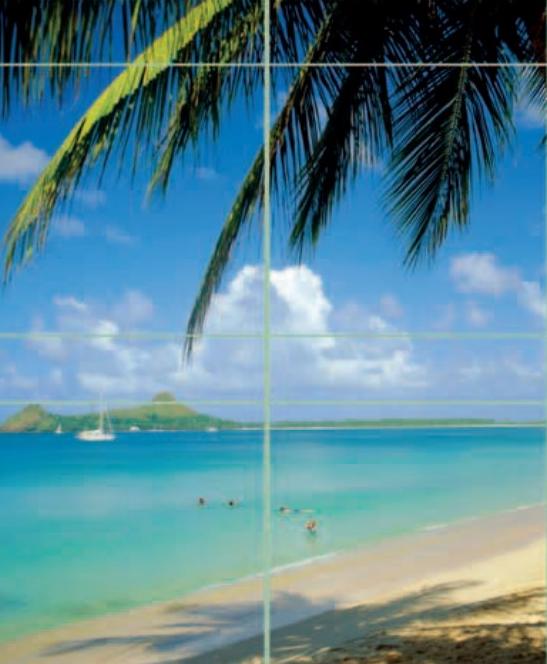
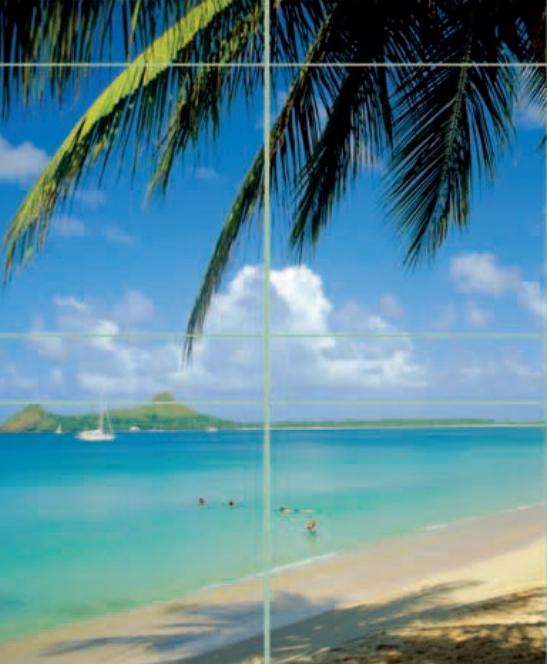
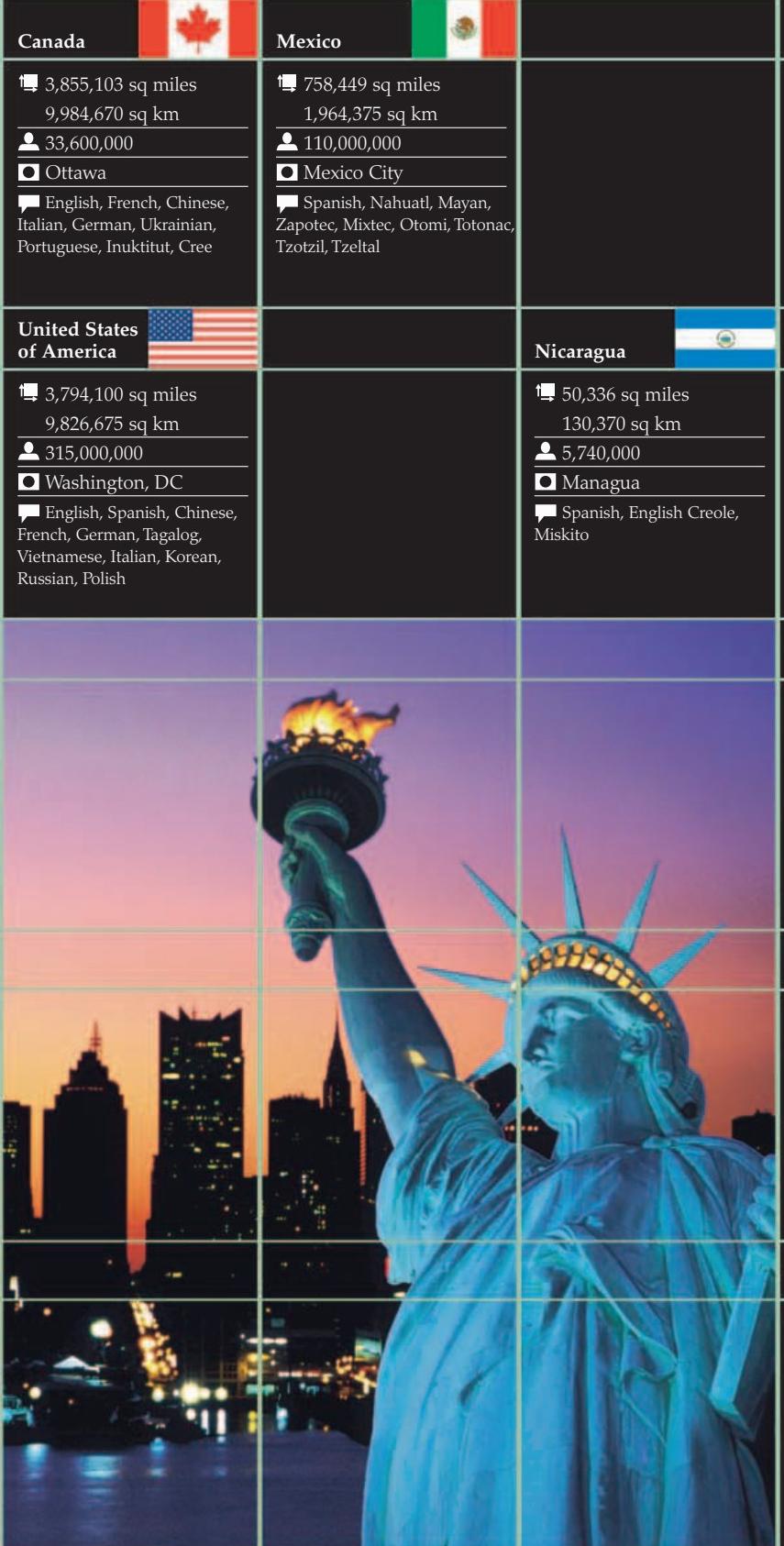
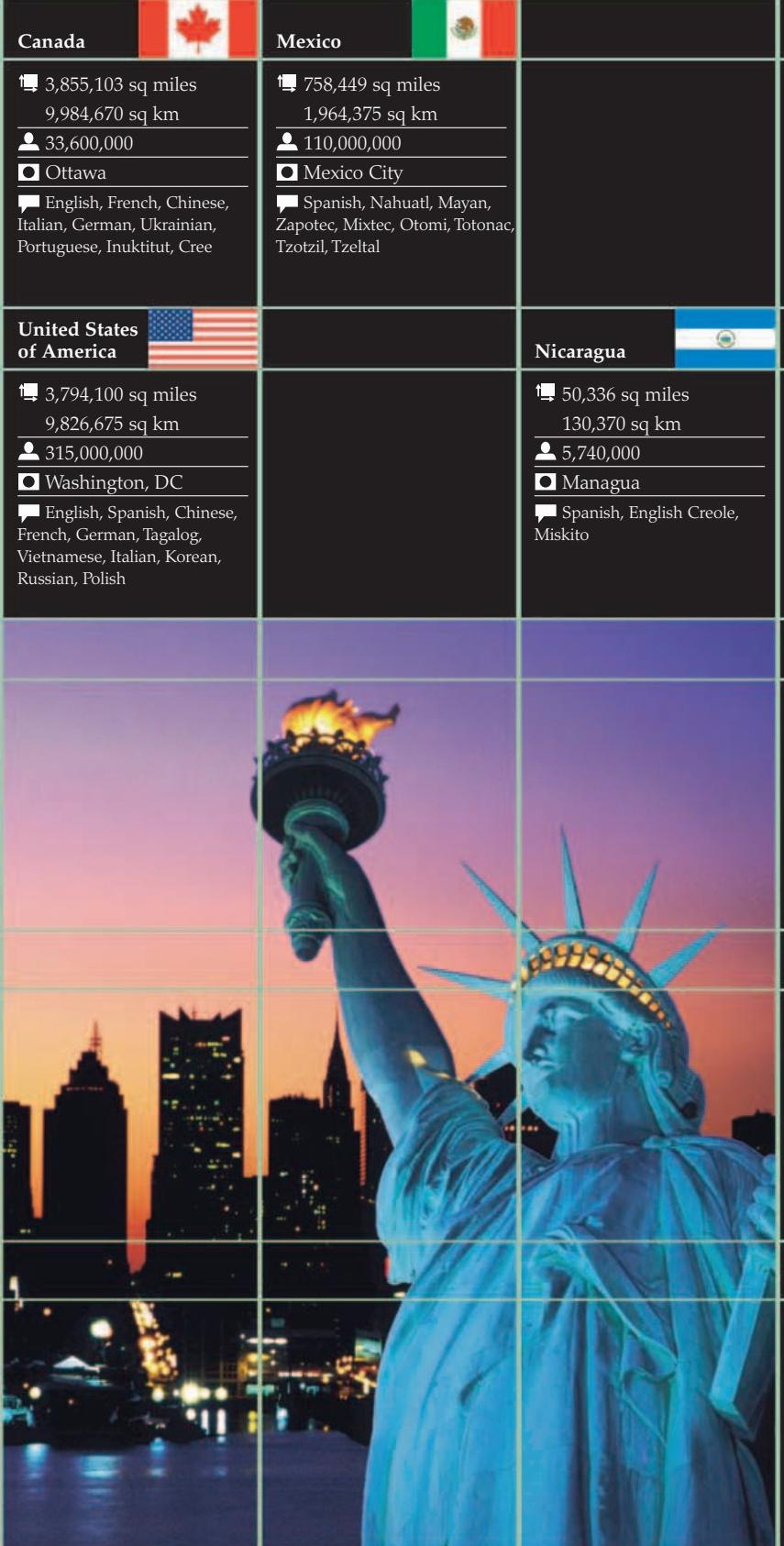
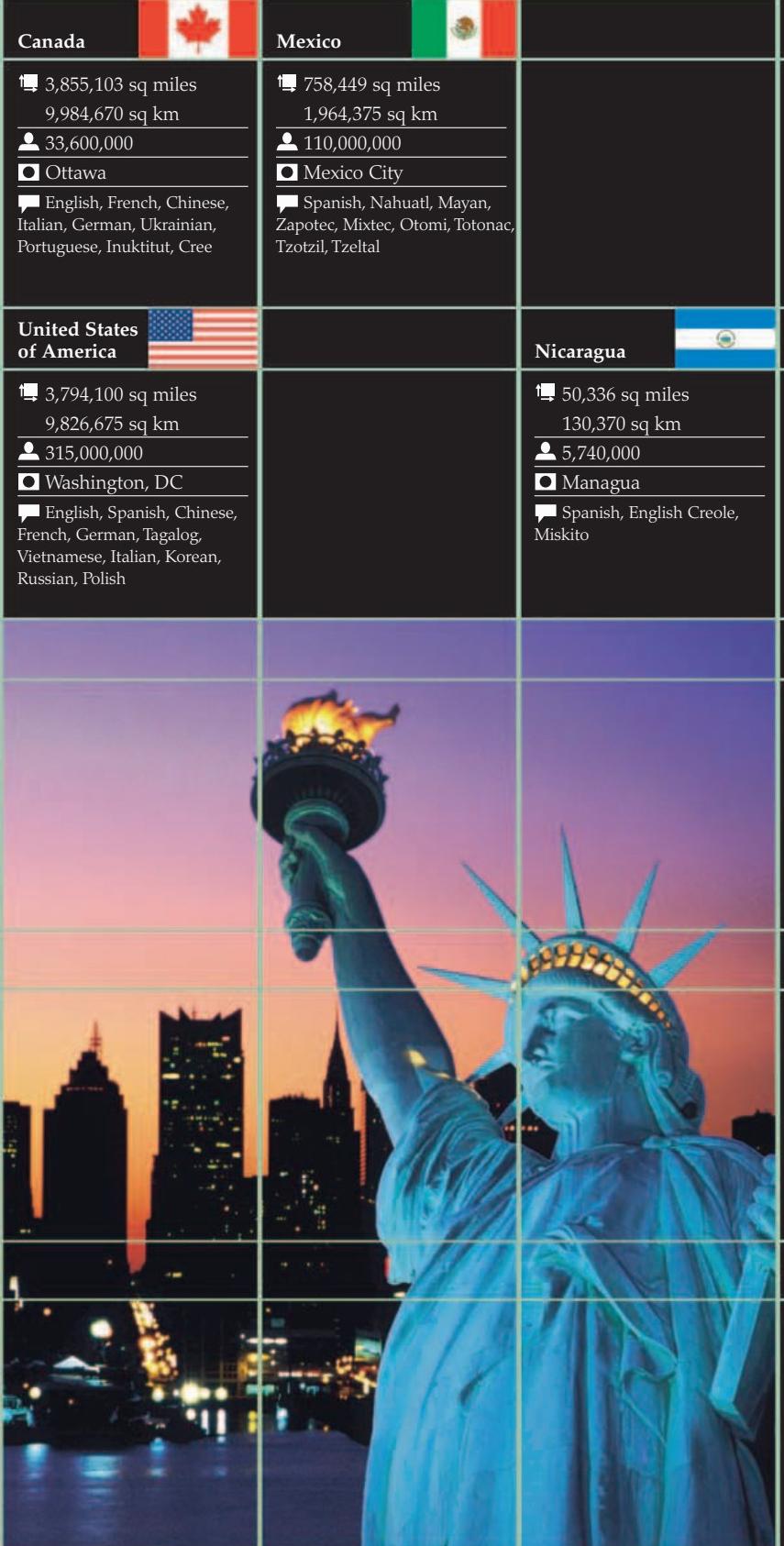
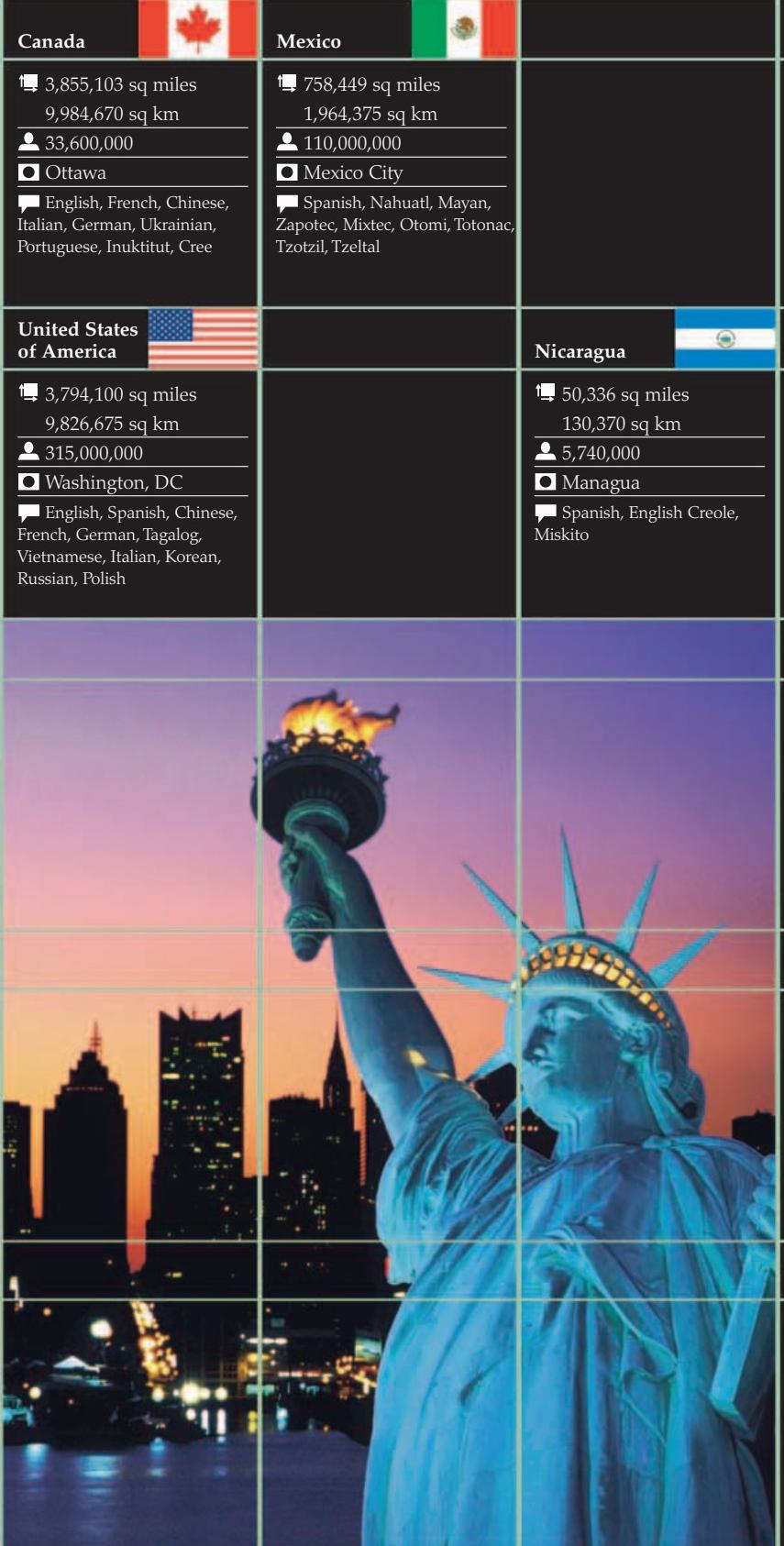
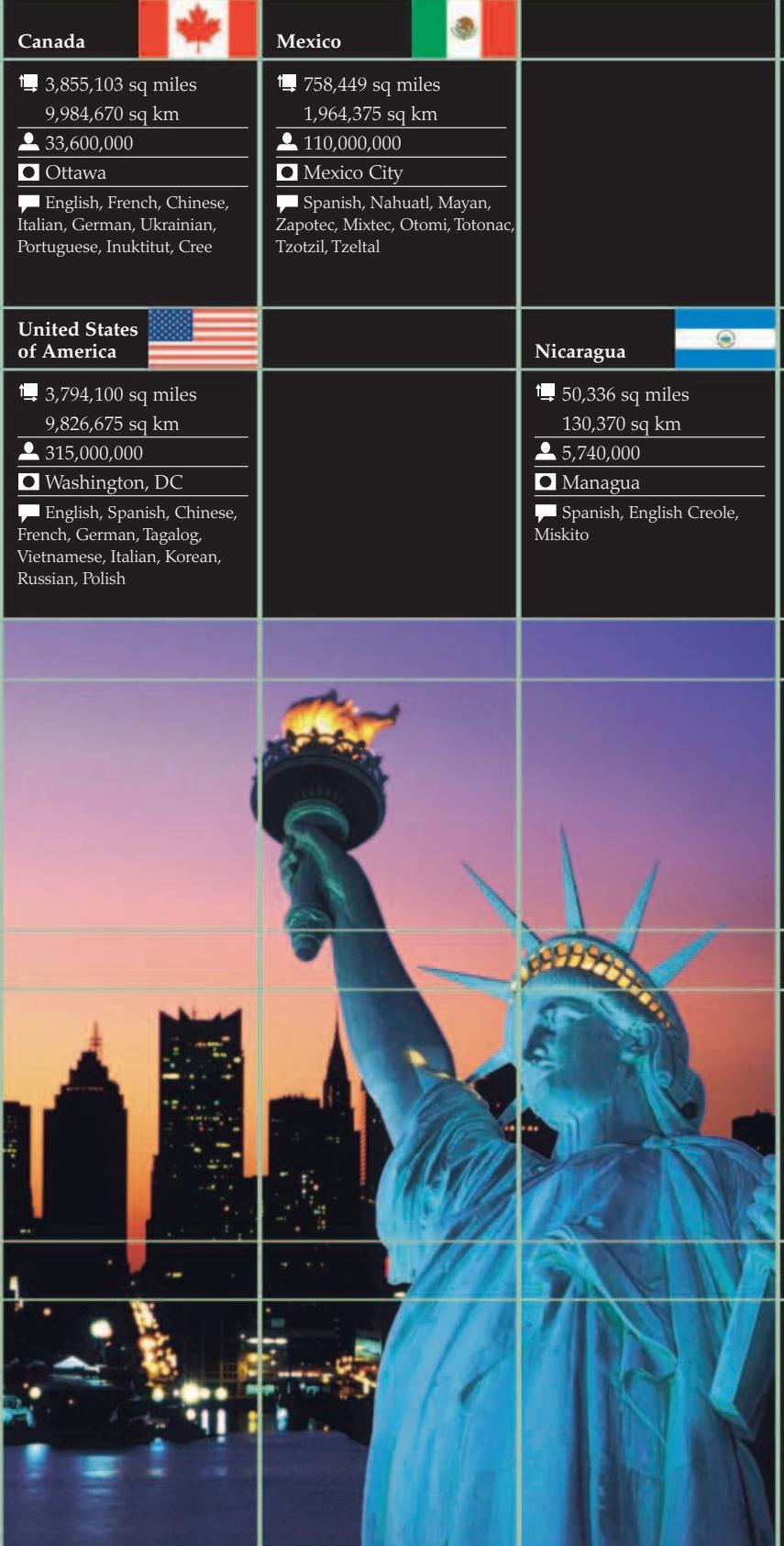
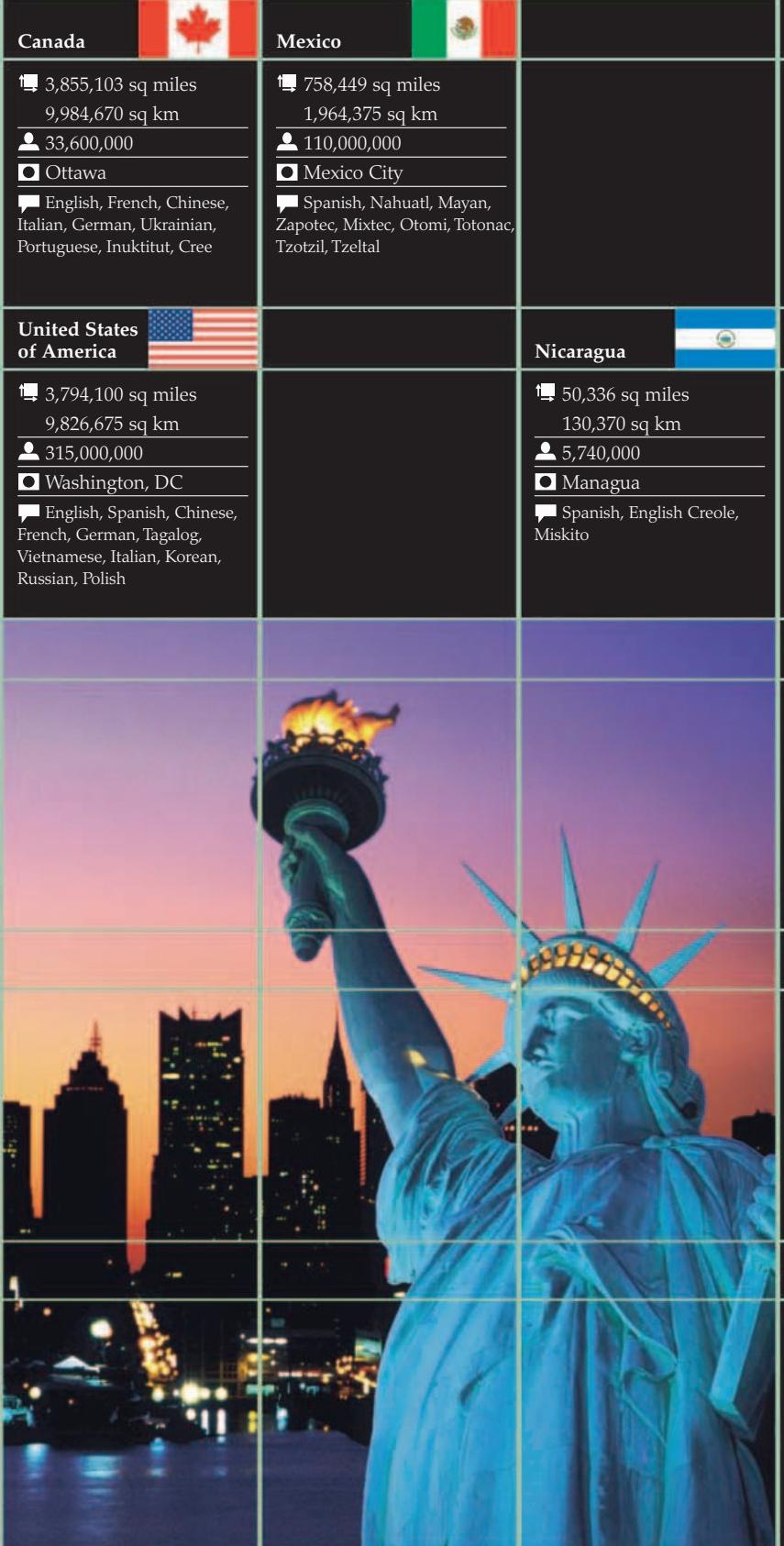
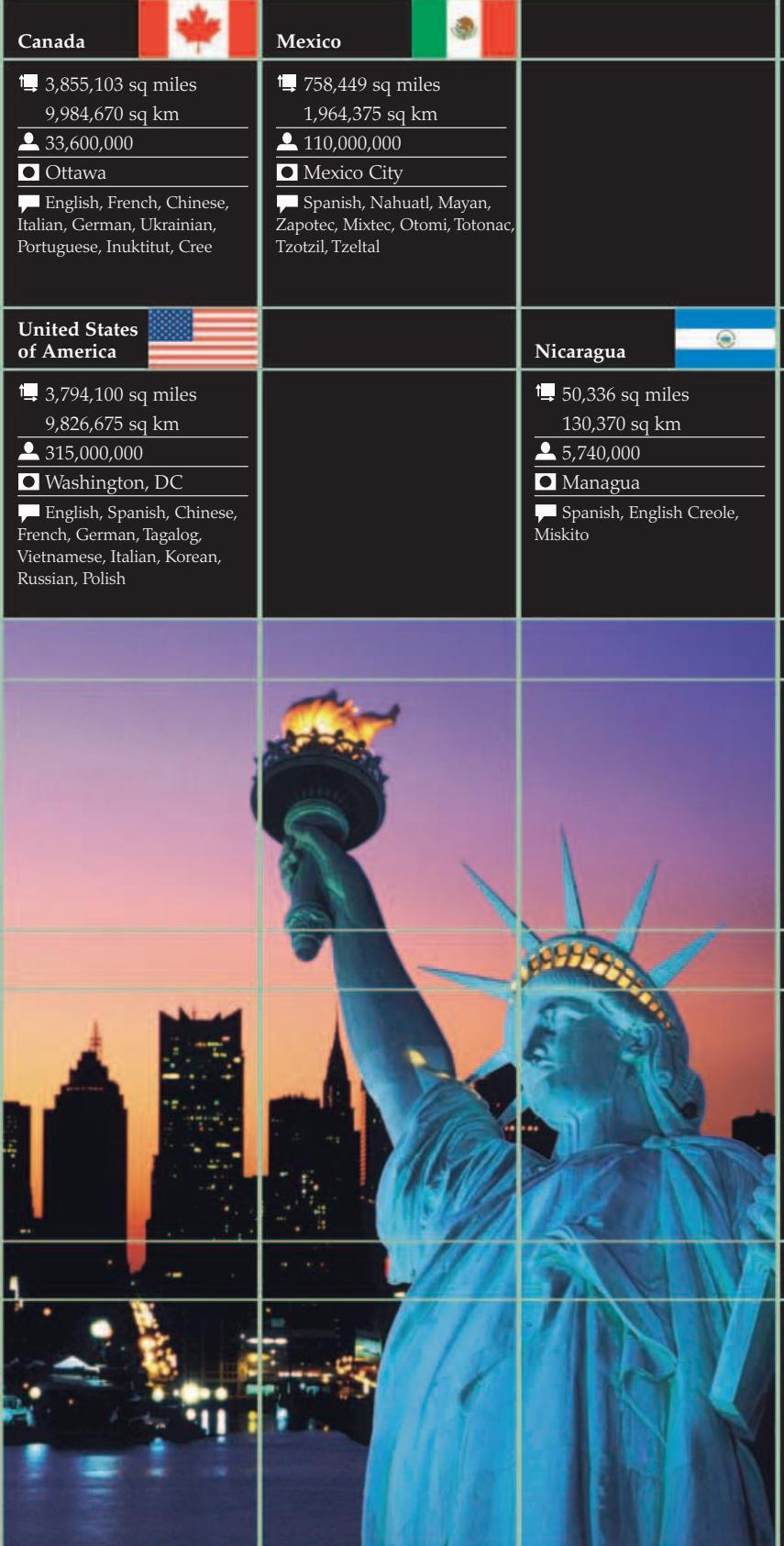
Chile Rise

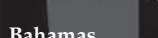
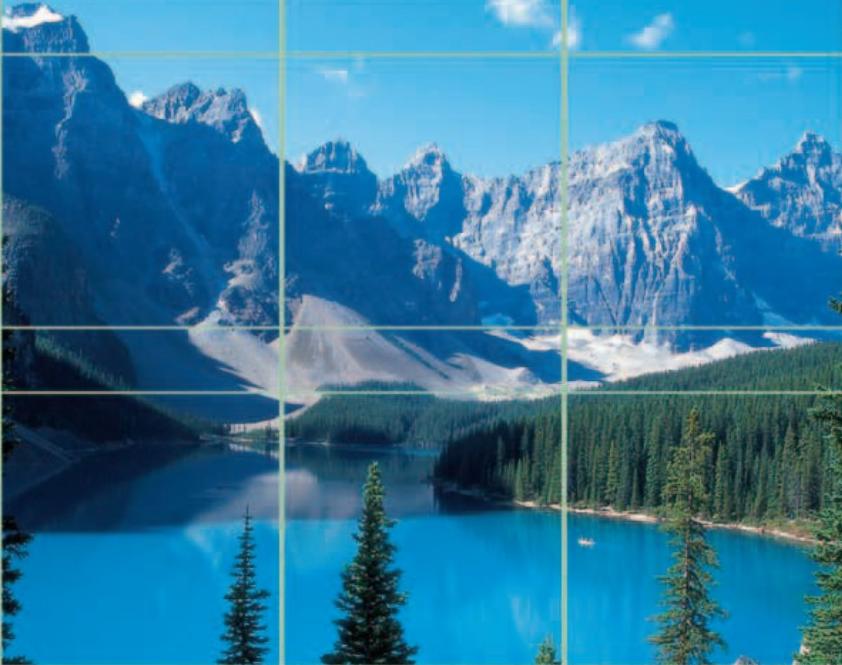
Graticule text

Tropic of Cancer

NORTH AMERICA

The North American continent extends from the frozen wastes of Arctic Canada to the Caribbean islands and the tropical jungles of Panama. It is politically dominated by the United States, the richest nation on Earth, yet life in countries such as Mexico and Nicaragua is still a struggle. The data below is arranged in order of each nation's size.

Canada		Mexico			Honduras		
• 3,855,103 sq miles 9,984,670 sq km		• 758,449 sq miles 1,964,375 sq km			• 43,278 sq miles 112,090 sq km		
• 33,600,000		• 110,000,000			• 7,470,000		
□ Ottawa		□ Mexico City			□ Tegucigalpa		
▪ English, French, Chinese, Italian, German, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Inuktitut, Cree		▪ Spanish, Nahuatl, Mayan, Zapotec, Mixtec, Otomi, Totonac, Tzotzil, Tzeltal			▪ Spanish, Garífuna (Carib), English Creole		
United States of America			Nicaragua				
• 3,794,100 sq miles 9,826,675 sq km		• 50,336 sq miles 130,370 sq km		The warm waters and glorious beaches of the Caribbean make islands like St. Lucia magnets for tourists.			
• 315,000,000		• 5,740,000		The wealth they bring is vital to the local economy.			
□ Washington, DC		□ Managua					
▪ English, Spanish, Chinese, French, German, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Italian, Korean, Russian, Polish		▪ Spanish, English Creole, Miskito					
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
				<img alt="Costa Rica landscape" data-bbox="10			

El Salvador		Dominica							
El Salvador  Area: 8,124 sq miles 21,041 sq km Population: 6,160,000 Capital: San Salvador City Language: Spanish	Dominica  Area: 290 sq miles 751 sq km Population: 70,400 Capital: Roseau Language: French Creole, English								
Bahamas		St. Lucia		Antigua and Barbuda					
Bahamas  Area: 5,359 sq miles 13,880 sq km Population: 341,700 Capital: Nassau Language: English, English Creole, French Creole	St. Lucia  Area: 238 sq miles 616 sq km Population: 172,200 Capital: Castries Language: English, French Creole	Antigua and Barbuda  Area: 171 sq miles 443 sq km Population: 82,800 Capital: St John's Language: English, English Patois							
Jamaica				Grenada					
Jamaica  Area: 4,244 sq miles 10,991 sq km Population: 2,720,000 Capital: Kingston Language: English Creole, English				Grenada  Area: 133 sq miles 344 sq km Population: 103,900 Capital: St George's Language: English, English Creole					
Most of Canada is still untamed wilderness—a land of huge, dramatic landscapes like this lake high up in the rugged, frost-shattered Rocky Mountains.									
Trinidad and Tobago			Barbados		St. Vincent and the Grenadines		St. Kitts and Nevis		
Trinidad and Tobago  Area: 1,980 sq miles 5,128 sq km Population: 1,340,000 Capital: Port-of-Spain Language: English Creole, English, Hindi, French, Spanish			Barbados  Area: 166 sq miles 430 sq km Population: 255,900 Capital: Bridgetown Language: Bajan (Barbadian English), English		St. Vincent and the Grenadines  Area: 150 sq miles 389 sq km Population: 109,200 Capital: Kingstown Language: English, English Creole		St. Kitts and Nevis  Area: 101 sq miles 261 sq km Population: 46,100 Capital: Basseterre Language: English, English Creole		



Western Canada and Alaska

CANADA IS A HUGE COUNTRY and its western half stretches from the flat prairies in the east to the towering Rocky Mountains in the west, and from the relatively mild south to the permanently frozen area north of the Arctic Circle. Harsh conditions throughout most of the region mean that most of the population is concentrated in cities in the south, such as Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg. The Prairies—once a vast expanse of grassland—are now mostly used for growing wheat on huge mechanized farms. Oil and natural gas are found there, too. These natural resources are also important in Alaska, a part of the United States. The majority of Alaska's people moved there to work in these lucrative industries.

Near Islands

Rat Islands

Bering Sea

Aleutian Islands
Andreevof Islands
Atka
Pribilof Islands
Umnak Island
Unalaska Island
Unimak Island

TOTEM POLES

The native peoples of British Columbia use totem poles to record their clan histories. Each carved and painted totem describes a real or mythical event and often features animals that the clan has a close connection with, such as the eagle (left).



VANCOUVER

This city's vibrant cultural mix is typical of Canada's diversity. Many South Asian, Chinese, as well as other ethnic groups live here and reflect Vancouver's historic role as a destination for migrants. Hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics raised its profile and its bustling economy, mild climate, and cultural links make it an attractive place to live.



FORESTRY

Large parts of western Canada are covered in forests, and lumbering is a major part of the local economy. The trees are used to make buildings, furniture, and paper. In the past, entire forests of trees were cleared, but now sustainable methods, such as selective cutting and replanting, are practiced.

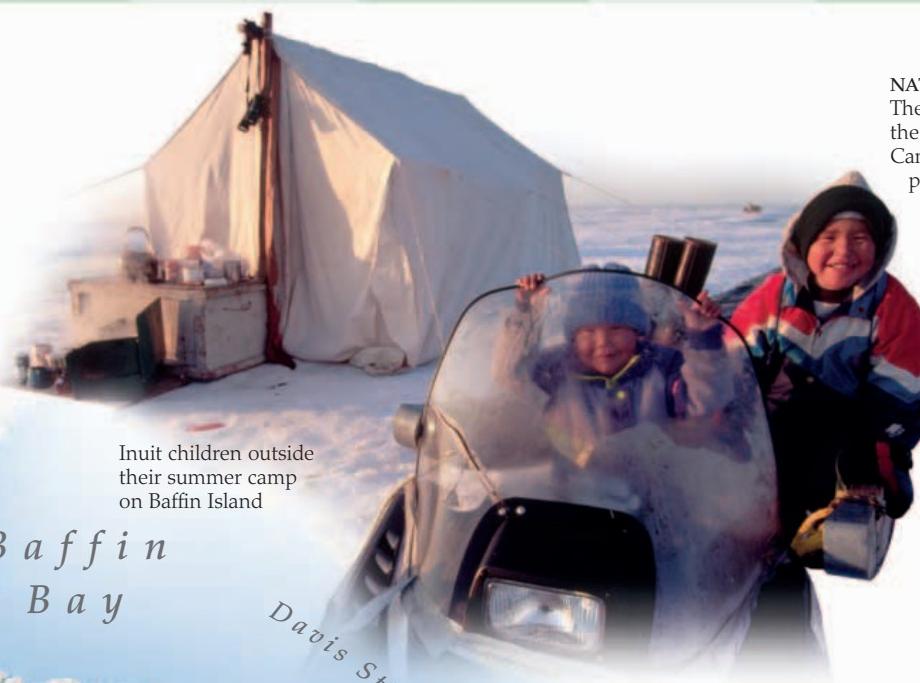
Felled trees transported down a river near Vancouver



DOGSLED RACING

The state sport of Alaska is dogsled racing. Here, competitors take part in the annual Iditarod Trail Great Sled Race, a gruelling run across the rugged landscape for drivers and their teams of dogs.

0 km
200
400
0 miles
200
400



NATIVE PEOPLES

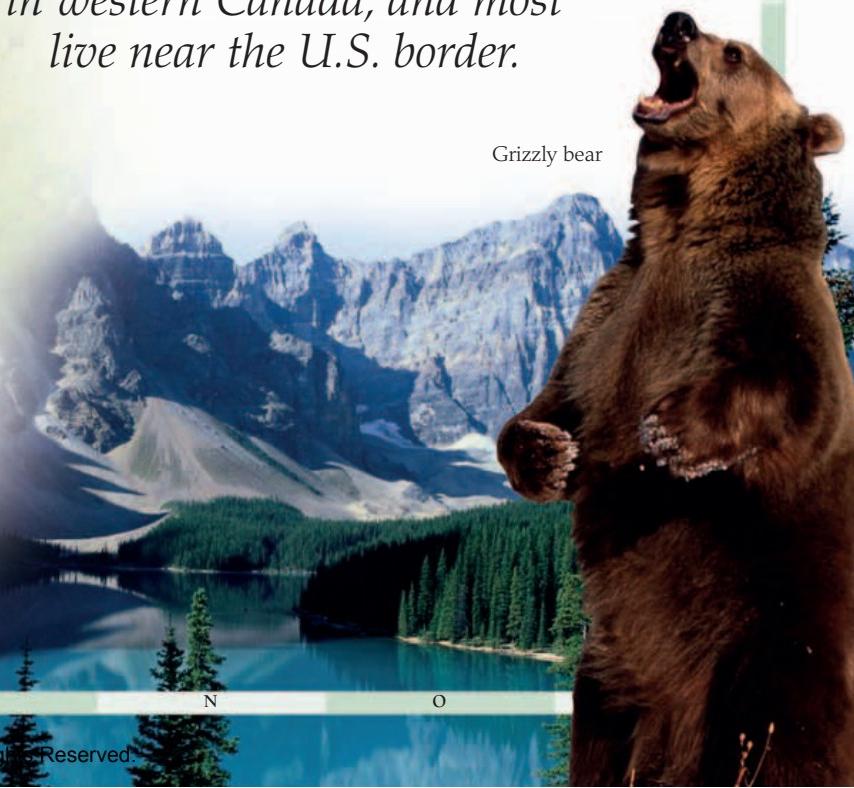
The native peoples of Alaska are the Aleut, and those in northern Canada are the Inuit. Native peoples are often called "First Nations" because they were the first to live in North America. Most of their land was later taken by European settlers. First Nation culture has revived, and Nunavut is now a self-governing Inuit territory. The Inuit have adapted to the harsh environment and often combine modern technology with their traditional lifestyle.



CENTRAL STATES

Large parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have rich soils and form one of the largest wheat-growing areas in the world. More wheat is grown here than Canadians can consume, so vast amounts are exported. Wheat is used to make flour for staple foods such as bread. Once harvested, wheat is stored in grain elevators, waiting to be transported by lorry or train.

Canada has a population of 34 million people, but only about 30 percent of them live in western Canada, and most live near the U.S. border.



ROCKY MOUNTAINS

The rugged Rocky Mountains stretch south through western Canada and into the United States. Every year they attract millions of visitors, who enjoy walking, hiking, and canoeing in the dramatic scenery. Tourists sometimes see wildlife such as the grizzly bear, black bear, elk, moose, and wolf.



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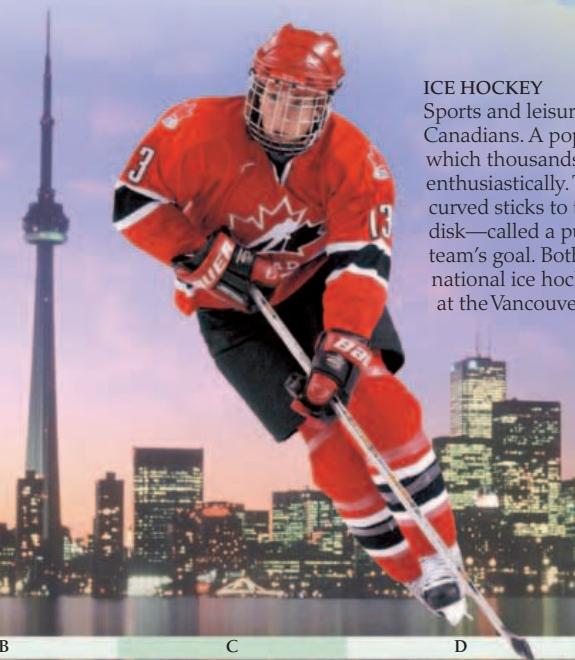
Eastern Canada

THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED AND HEAVILY populated parts of Canada are in the east. Ottawa, the capital, is located here, along with other important cities, such as Toronto, Montreal, and Québec. Some of the earliest settlers were French, and many people speak French as their first language. The Great Lakes—the largest system of lakes in the world—and the St. Lawrence Seaway link the interior to the coast. The most easterly parts of Canada, the Atlantic Provinces, have rugged coastlines and dramatic scenery. However, soils are thin and commercial agriculture is limited to a few areas. Fishing used to be the main activity, but fish stocks have been so depleted that few people are now employed in the industry, despite recent environmental efforts to rebuild the stocks. A growing oil and gas industry and new high-tech businesses are attracting younger workers, although many people still migrate to the bustling cities farther west.

Canadians have a high life expectancy—the average person lives to be 80 years old.

TORONTO

Toronto is Canada's most important economic center. Located on Lake Ontario, close to the U.S. border, it is not only an industrial and commercial centre but is also home to a wide diversity of ethnic and cultural groups. The Canadian National (CN) tower, which dominates the Toronto skyline, is the world's tallest tower, and locals and tourists can get an impressive view of the city and Lake Ontario from the top.



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MAPLE SYRUP

The maple trees of Québec and Ontario are tapped for maple syrup, a major export—and a popular topping on pancakes for Canadians. The maple leaf is the national symbol of Canada and features on the nation's flag.

Maple sap collected from cuts in the tree trunk

Ivujivik
Charles Island

Ungava Peninsula

Inukjuak
(Port Harrison)

Lac Minto

Hudson Bay
Belcher Islands

James Bay
Akimiski Island

Q U N

Rivière de Rupert

Harricana

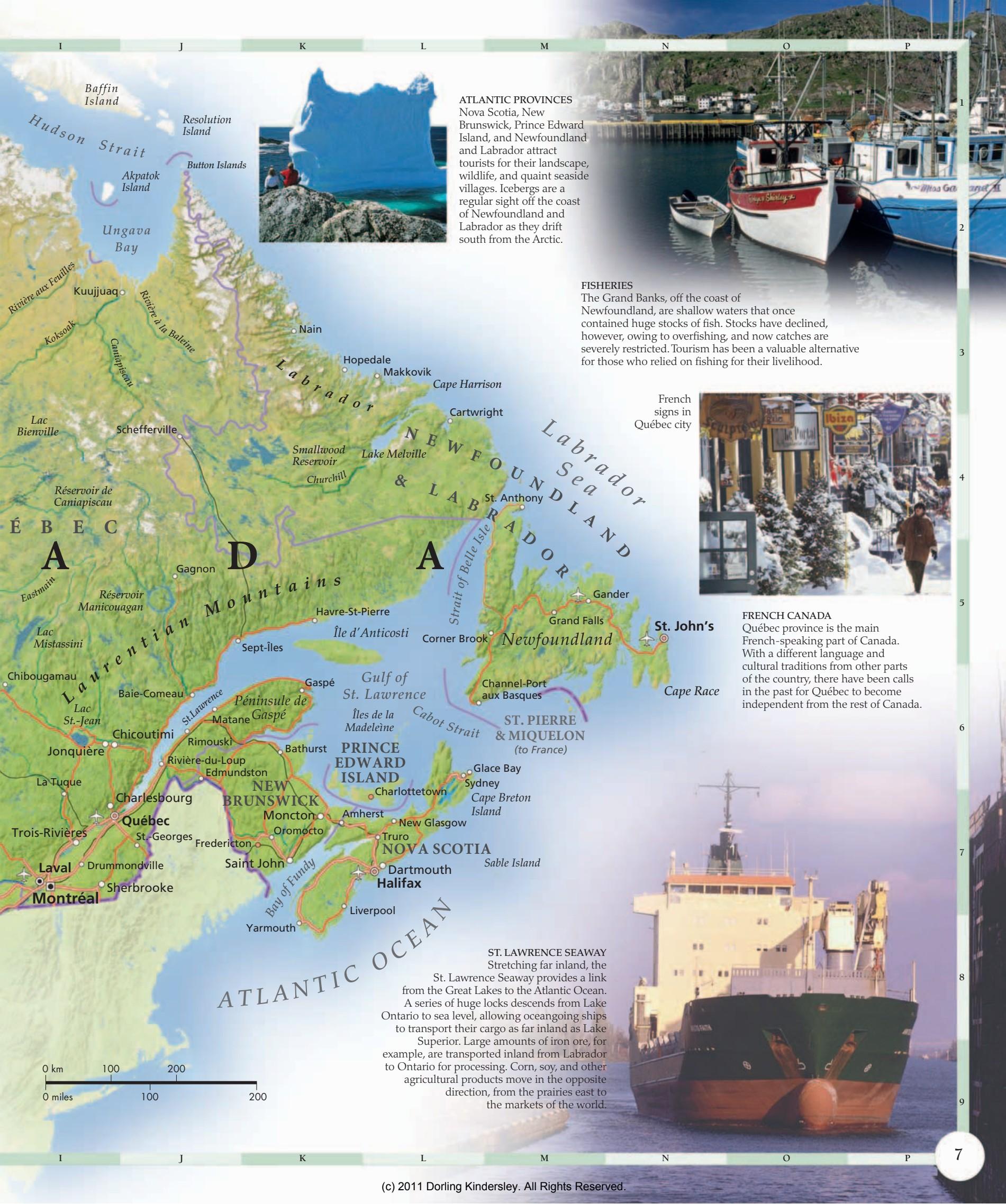
Réserve Gouin



ICE HOCKEY

Sports and leisure are important to Canadians. A popular sport is ice hockey, which thousands of people play or watch enthusiastically. Teams of skaters use long, curved sticks to try to get a hard rubber disk—called a puck—into the opposing team's goal. Both the men's and women's national ice hockey teams won gold medals at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



ATLANTIC PROVINCES

ATLANTIC PROVINCES
Nova Scotia, New
Brunswick, Prince Edward
Island, and Newfoundland
and Labrador attract
tourists for their landscape,
wildlife, and quaint seaside
villages. Icebergs are a
regular sight off the coast
of Newfoundland and
Labrador as they drift
south from the Arctic.

FISHERIES

FISHERIES
The Grand Banks, off the coast of Newfoundland, are shallow waters that once contained huge stocks of fish. Stocks have declined, however, owing to overfishing, and now catches are severely restricted. Tourism has been a valuable alternative for those who relied on fishing for their livelihood.

French
signs in
Québec city



FRENCH CANADA

FRENCH CANADA
Québec province is the main French-speaking part of Canada. With a different language and cultural traditions from other parts of the country, there have been calls in the past for Québec to become independent from the rest of Canada.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY
Stretching far inland, the St. Lawrence Seaway provides a link from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. A series of huge locks descends from Lake Ontario to sea level, allowing oceangoing ships to transport their cargo as far inland as Lake Superior. Large amounts of iron ore, for example, are transported inland from Labrador to Ontario for processing. Corn, soy, and other agricultural products move in the opposite direction, from the prairies east to the markets of the world.



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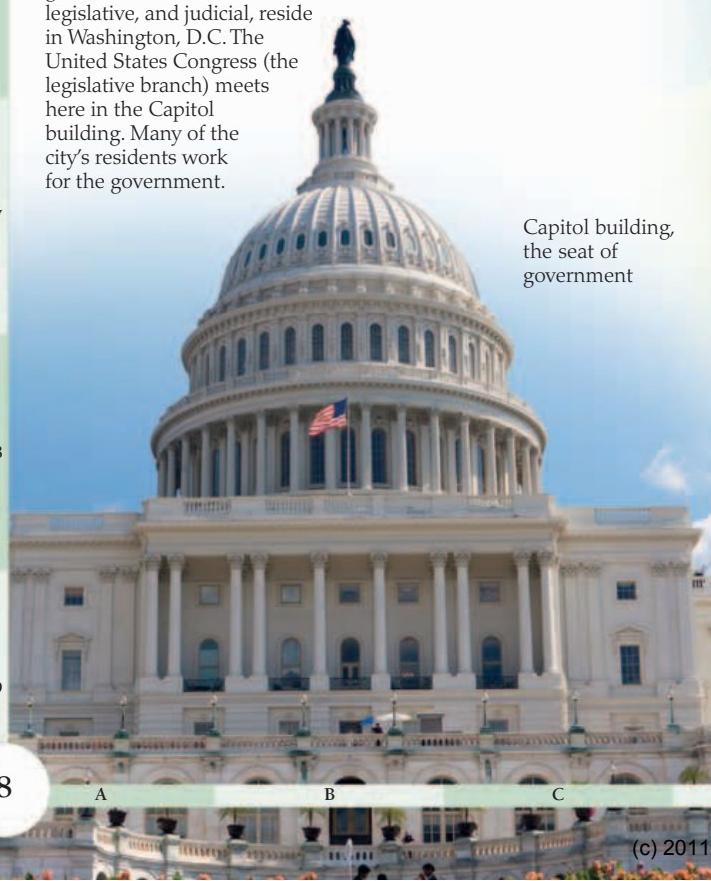
U.S.A.: Northeast

THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES is a heavily populated area that is steeped in history. This is traditionally the main immigration point into the United States, with the Statue of Liberty lighting the way for those arriving into New York City by boat. People from all over the world have settled in this region to live and work, creating a "melting pot" of cultures and ethnic groups. Important historical events, such as the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These documents set the foundations for American life today. It is also here that the capital and center of government were established. Today, while industry and agriculture are still important, finance and commerce are the driving forces of the economy.

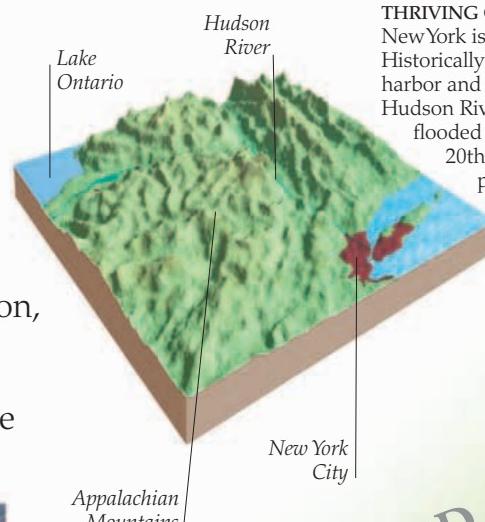


The White House in Washington, D.C. has been home to every president except George Washington, whom the city is named after.

CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT
All three branches of the federal government, the executive, legislative, and judicial, reside in Washington, D.C. The United States Congress (the legislative branch) meets here in the Capitol building. Many of the city's residents work for the government.



Capitol building,
the seat of government



THRIVING CITY
New York is the largest city in the U.S. Historically it grew because it has a good harbor and sits at the mouth of the Hudson River. Immigrants from overseas flooded into the city in the 19th and 20th centuries, boosting its population and economy. Today, it is the main financial center, not just of the U.S.A., but of the world.





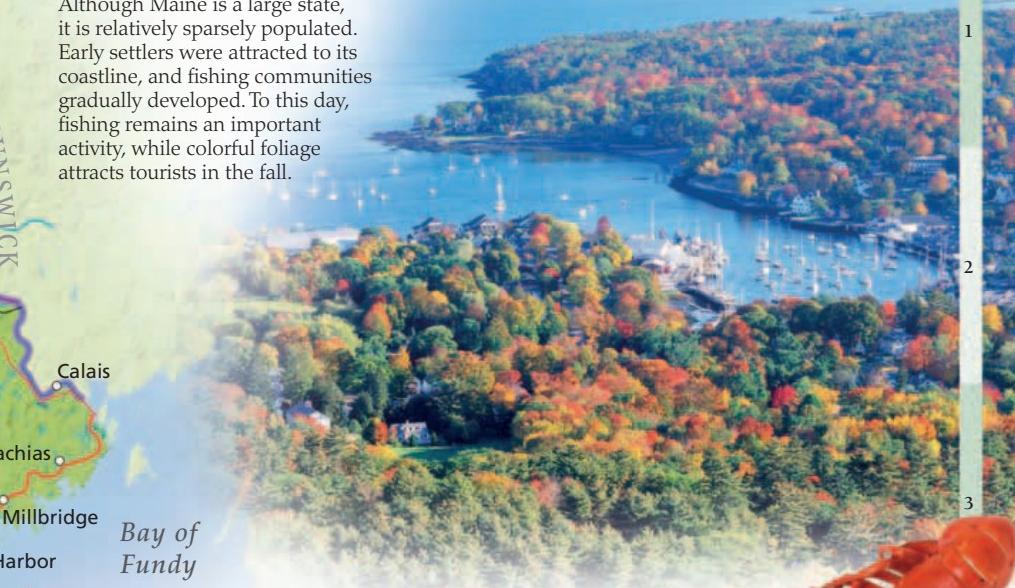
CRANBERRIES

The northeast U.S. is a major cranberry-growing region. Cranberries grow in flooded bogs, and once harvested—often with high-tech equipment (above)—they can be eaten in pies and sauces.



MAINE

Although Maine is a large state, it is relatively sparsely populated. Early settlers were attracted to its coastline, and fishing communities gradually developed. To this day, fishing remains an important activity, while colorful foliage attracts tourists in the fall.



Bay of Fundy

Maine (above), famous for its clam chowder and lobsters (right)



THANKSGIVING

The first Thanksgiving was held in 1621 as a gesture of friendship between American Indians and the Pilgrims after the Pilgrims' first successful harvest. Americans honor this tradition every November by gathering with family and friends to give thanks for life's blessings and to share a meal.



HIGHER EDUCATION

A large number of universities are located in this region, including two of the most famous—Harvard (above) and Yale. As well as studying, students enjoy a full campus life, including taking part in sport. Links between industry and education are strong, so many high-tech companies have been established here.



Tourists can take an elevator to the top of the Statue of Liberty



NEW YORK CITY

The center of U.S. commerce and business is New York City. People living here have a fast-paced lifestyle, and many travel by train or bus from the suburbs to work in the towering high-rise office buildings of Manhattan. People traveling by boat across the harbor pass the Statue of Liberty, a huge monument that represents freedom and opportunity to Americans.



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U.S.A.: South

THE SOUTHERN STATES of the U.S.A. have a varied landscape and an interesting mix of people, both culturally and economically. Some areas of the region are poor, especially the Appalachian Mountain communities, while other parts, such as the Florida coast, are wealthy and attract many people from other states and countries. The cultural mix includes people of Latin American origin, African-Americans, Cajuns (French-Canadians), and European Americans, giving rise to diverse music styles, dialects, pastimes, and food. While coal mining in the Appalachian Mountains has declined in recent years, agriculture is still important, as are tourism and industry. Tourism is especially important in Florida and in New Orleans, Louisiana, near the mouth of the mighty Mississippi River.

COTTON CROPS
Cotton was once the main crop of the South and was grown by African-American slaves. Today, cotton is still important for the economy of the region and is grown in large fields and harvested with huge machinery. Cotton has many uses, primarily as the raw material for textiles.



Cotton pod, or boll

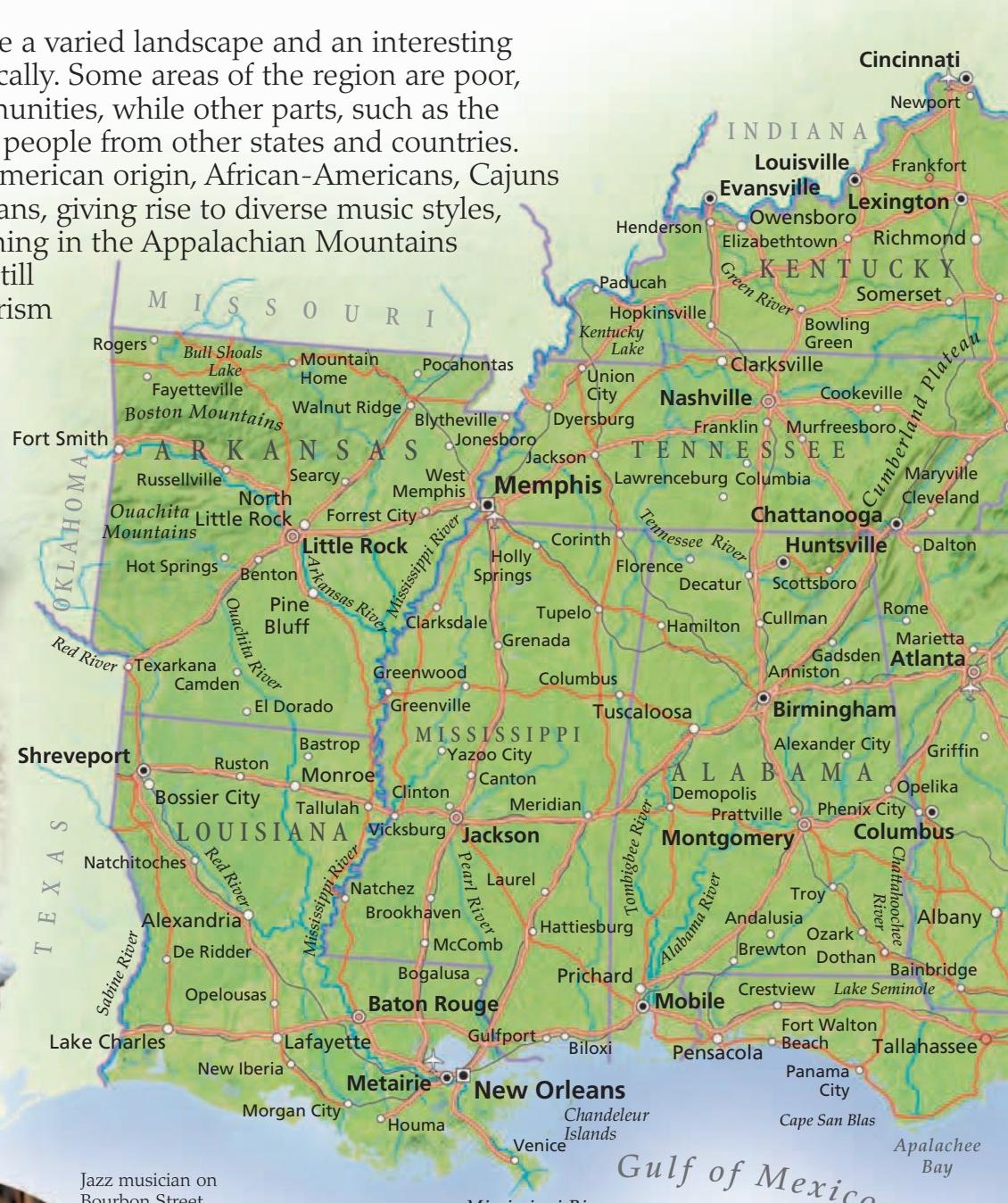
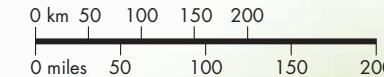
The Mississippi is the largest river in North America and the third largest in the world.



Jazz musician on Bourbon Street, New Orleans

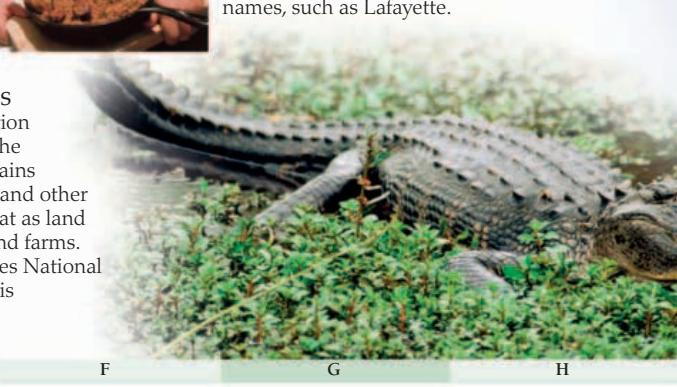
MUSICAL ORIGINS
The southern U.S.A. is famous for its music, most of which reflects the cultural mix of the region. New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana are the birthplaces of jazz and Cajun music, while bluegrass and country have origins in Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee. These music styles started here, but quickly spread throughout the country and developed even further in the cities.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES
The increasing population of Florida means that the Everglades, swampy plains inhabited by alligators and other wildlife, are under threat as land is needed for houses and farms. However, the Everglades National Park protects part of this important ecosystem.



Chef holding a skillet of jambalaya, a Cajun dish

CAJUN CULTURE
The Cajuns in this region are French-speaking people who were expelled from Canada in the 1700s. They mixed with other cultures in Louisiana, but their French influence can be seen in the music, food, and place names, such as Lafayette.





KENTUCKY DERBY

Every year on the first Saturday of May, the Kentucky Derby takes place in Louisville. This horse race and the festivities based around it mark the beginning of spring for people in the area. The best horses and jockeys, as well as massive crowds of spectators from around the country, travel here for the event.



Kumba roller coaster,
the fastest in Florida, in
Busch Gardens Tampa

TOURISM

Tourism Tourism is an important industry in the south, especially for Florida. As well as warm weather and appealing scenery, tourists are attracted to the amusement parks around Orlando. Jobs and income are generated by tourism, with many people working in retail outlets, restaurants, hotels, and amusement parks.



Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking at the final rally of the March Against Fear, Mississippi, 1966

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (left) was born in Atlanta in 1929. In the 1960s, he led many peaceful protests to end the laws that discriminated against black Americans. King was assassinated in 1968 and has since been seen as a symbol of the struggle for racial equality.

Many African-Americans live in the southern U.S., where, before the Civil War (1861–65), their ancestors were forced to work on cotton plantations and farms.



FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE COAST

FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE COAST
Florida's sunny weather and sandy beaches have traditionally attracted many retired people, many of whom live in apartments along the coast in resorts such as Miami Beach (right). Florida also attracts young people, especially to the vibrant city of Miami, where many immigrants from Central America, Cuba, and other Caribbean islands live, and Spanish is spoken by half the population. The Florida Keys, an island chain in the south of the peninsula, is also popular with tourists, and contains some of the largest living coral formations in North America.



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U.S.A.: Midwest

THE AMERICAN MIDWEST is dominated by the Great Plains, once the home of cattle ranches, cowboys, and Native American peoples. However, the discovery of gold in South Dakota brought a rush of settlers to the area. This, combined with a decline in buffalo numbers, led to the eventual displacement of the Native Americans from the Plains. The area is prone to dramatic weather—tornadoes, blizzards, and hot summers. To the west, vast areas of farmland generate more wheat and corn than anywhere else in the world. East of the Mississippi River, the landscape varies and, although farming is important, this is the industrial center of the country. Cities such as Chicago (Illinois), Detroit (Michigan), and Cleveland (Ohio) are major manufacturing centers.

BUFFALO ON THE PLAINS

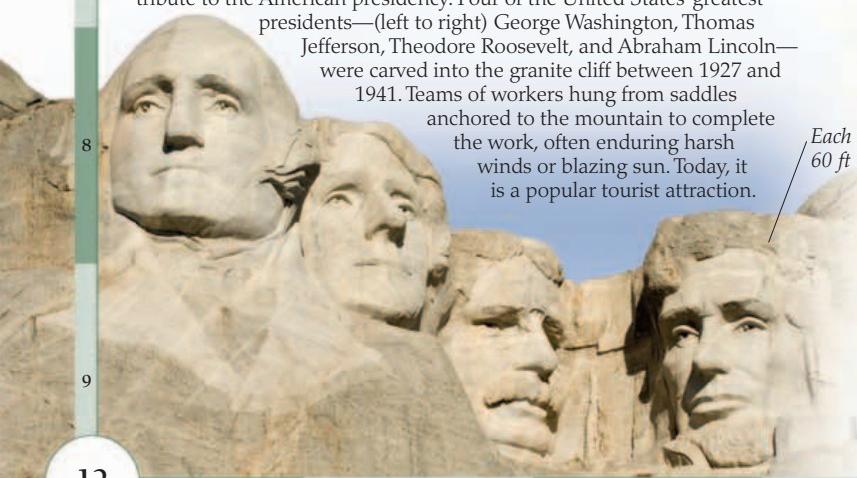
Up to 100 million buffalo once grazed on the Great Plains. They provided local Native Americans with food for the family, and skin for clothes and tepees. The Dakota people used buffalo bones to make shields and tools, and the animal's bladder was made into a bag for carrying water. But overhunting and the destruction of the buffalo's habitat by early European settlers drastically reduced the number of animals. The buffalo is now a protected species and lives in reserves.



Buffalo herd on a reserve,
South Dakota

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Mount Rushmore, in the Black Hills of South Dakota, was created as a tribute to the American presidency. Four of the United States' greatest presidents—(left to right) George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln—were carved into the granite cliff between 1927 and 1941. Teams of workers hung from saddles anchored to the mountain to complete the work, often enduring harsh winds or blazing sun. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction.



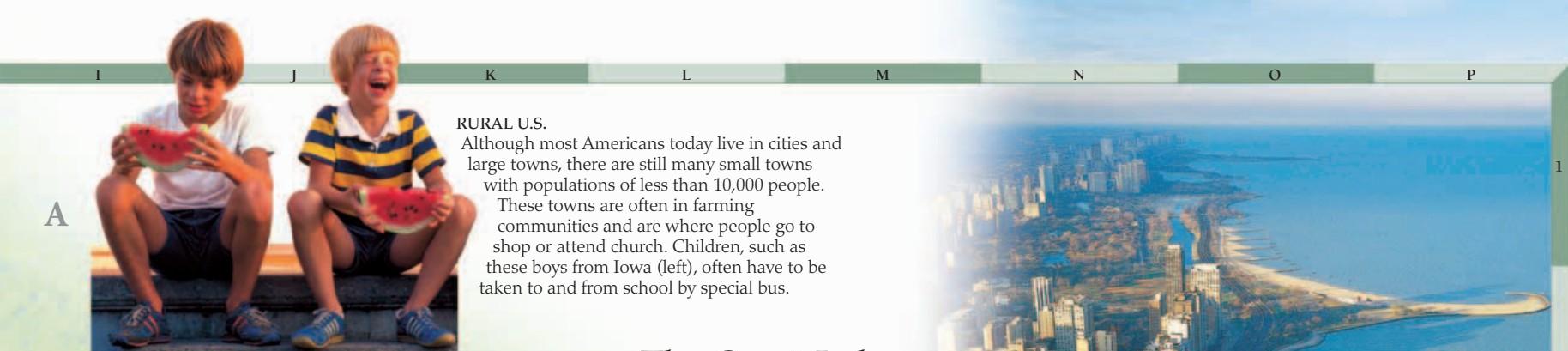
Each carved face is about
60 ft (18 m) high



TORNADO ALLEY

Dramatic tornadoes, or "twisters," regularly tear through the states of Kansas and Missouri along a path known as Tornado Alley. Tornadoes occur when warm and cold air masses meet. As the warm air rises, it cools, and under the right conditions, it can suck in more and more air until a whirling twister develops. The more air that is pulled in, the greater the power of the tornado.





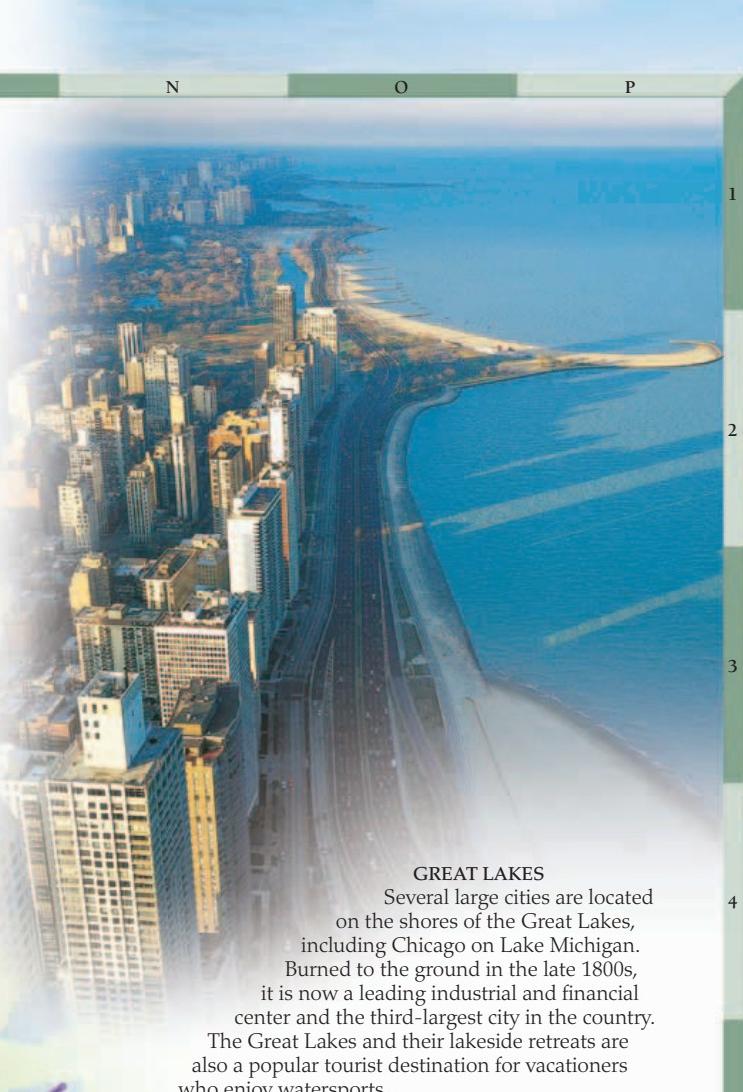
RURAL U.S.

Although most Americans today live in cities and large towns, there are still many small towns with populations of less than 10,000 people. These towns are often in farming communities and are where people go to shop or attend church. Children, such as these boys from Iowa (left), often have to be taken to and from school by special bus.



AGRICULTURE
The Great Plains extend across the west of this region and are important for agriculture. Rich soils support crops of wheat and corn, while livestock grazes on the extensive grassland. Millions of people live on the Great Plains, many on family-owned and -run farms.

The Great Lakes contain one-fifth of Earth's fresh water.



GREAT LAKES

Several large cities are located on the shores of the Great Lakes, including Chicago on Lake Michigan.

Burned to the ground in the late 1800s, it is now a leading industrial and financial center and the third-largest city in the country.

The Great Lakes and their lakeside retreats are also a popular tourist destination for vacationers who enjoy watersports.



FOOTBALL

The first official game of football was played between Princeton and Rutgers universities in New Jersey on November 6, 1869. Since then, college and professional teams have been founded all over the country, and playing and watching football have become some of Americans' favorite pastimes.



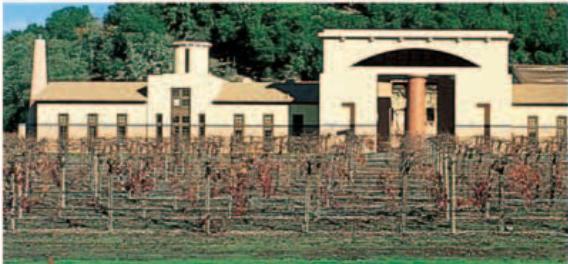
U.S.A.: West

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS separate the coastal region from the drier inland states. Fast-growing cities in California, such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, hug the Pacific coast and have attracted many migrants because of good job opportunities. Inland, blazing deserts and towering mountains provide some of the most dramatic landscapes in the country. National parks, such as Yellowstone in northwestern Wyoming and Montana, and Yosemite in central California, protect some of these wilderness areas. Farther east, the foothills of the Rockies give way to vast plains grazed by large herds of cattle.



NORTHERN FORESTS

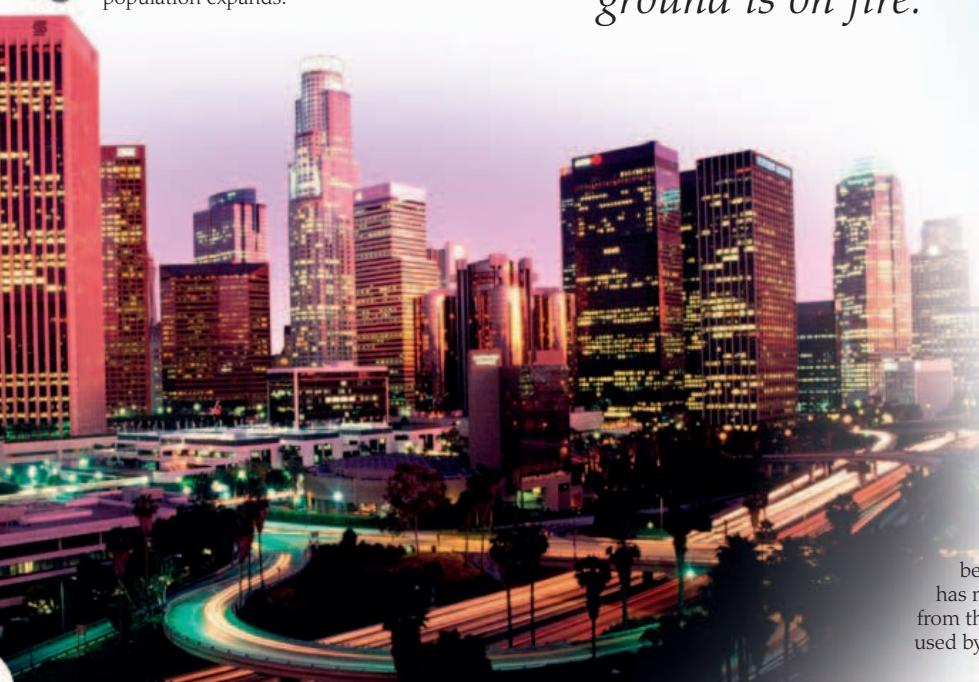
The coastal areas of Oregon and Washington contain large forests. These produce economically important timber, but a lot of land is also left in its natural state and is popular with hikers. Most people here live in large cities like Seattle, Washington, and in the fertile inland valleys.



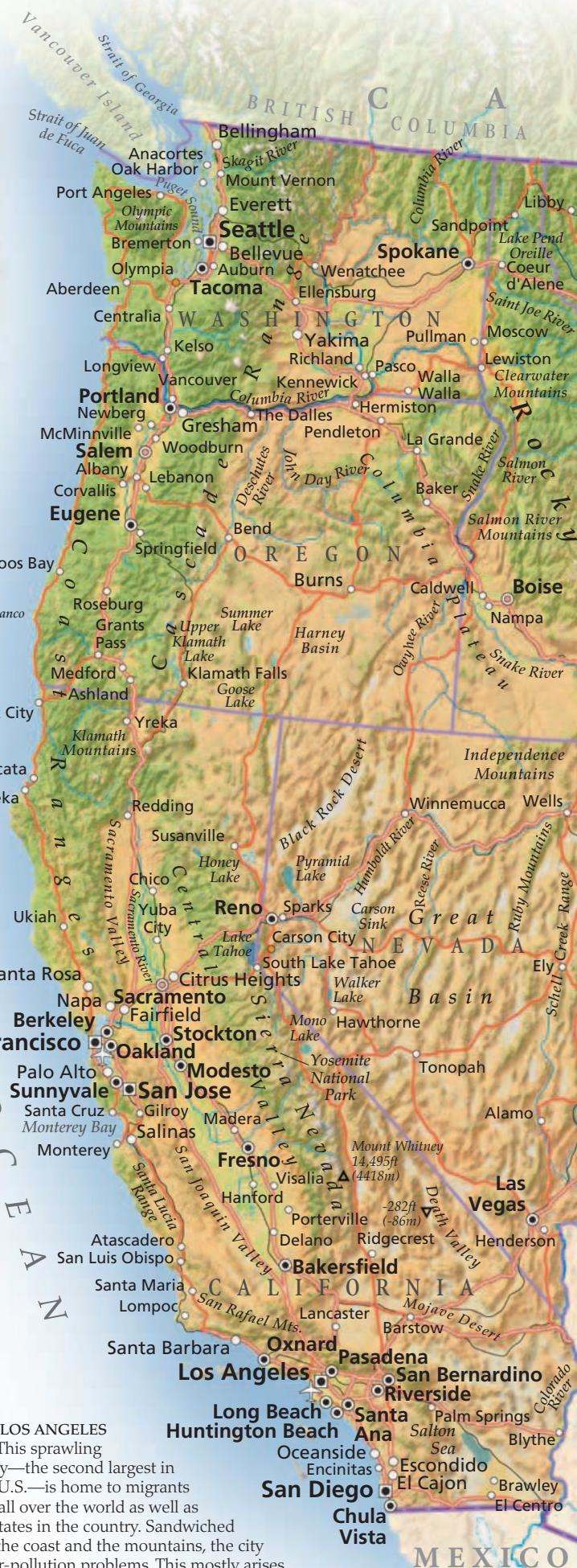
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE
California is warm, fertile, and well irrigated, ideal for agriculture. Grapes are an important crop north of San Francisco in the Napa Valley.

San Francisco in the Napa Valley. Farther south, citrus crops such as oranges also flourish. Premium farming land is under threat, however, as the population expands.

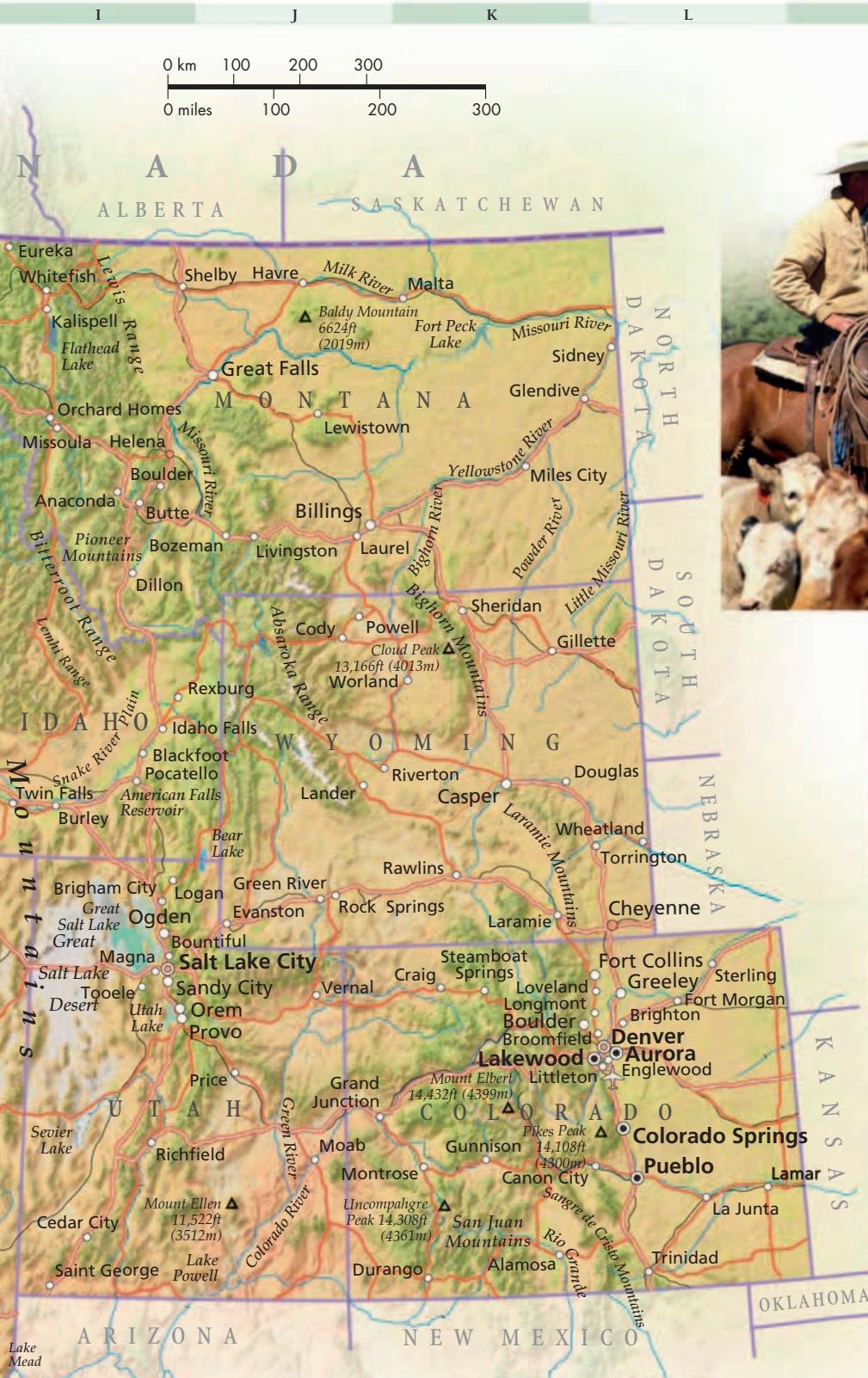


The Native American name for Death Valley is Tomesha, which means "land where the ground is on fire."



LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES This sprawling city—the second largest in the U.S.—is home to migrants from all over the world as well as other states in the country. Sandwiched between the coast and the mountains, the city has major air-pollution problems. This mostly arises from the exhaust fumes from the high number of cars used by commuters on the city's highways.



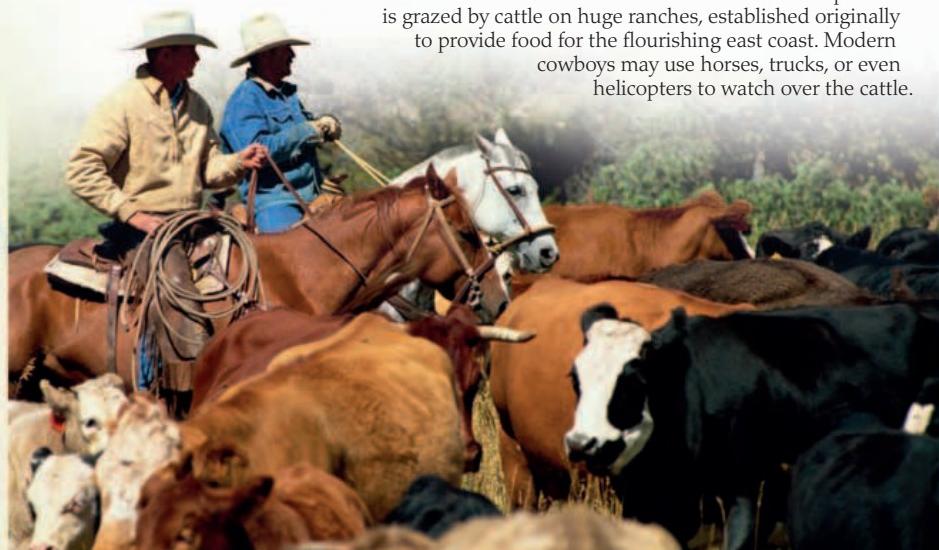
Silicon, an element, is used in many computer products

SILICON VALLEY

The area between Palo Alto and San Jose has been nicknamed "Silicon Valley" because of the many companies engaged in high-technology research and manufacturing here. It is the center of the world's computer industry.

CATTLE RANCHES

Many people who live in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado work in the booming farming and mining industries. A lot of the land on these foothills and plains is grazed by cattle on huge ranches, established originally to provide food for the flourishing east coast. Modern cowboys may use horses, trucks, or even helicopters to watch over the cattle.



DEATH VALLEY

The driest place in the U.S. is Death Valley, which also holds the highest recorded temperature in North America of 135°F (57°C). Although seemingly inhospitable, its canyons, rock formations, and sudden spring blooms make it popular with tourists.



COLORADO

The Rocky Mountains cut through this region. The stunning terrain and the light, dry snow that falls here support the skiing industry in Colorado. Resorts such as Aspen are popular with Americans as well as overseas visitors.



EARTHQUAKES

San Francisco, California suffers from frequent earthquakes owing to its location on the San Andreas fault line. Modern skyscrapers are designed to withstand tremors, but many houses, especially those on typically steep streets, are still at risk.



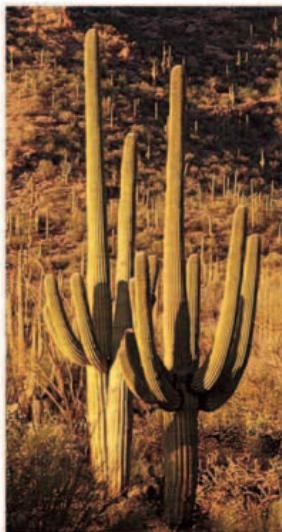
Tourists watching the Old Faithful geyser, Yellowstone National Park

YELLOWSTONE
The first national park in the world, Yellowstone was established in 1872 in Wyoming and Montana to protect the abundant wildlife and hydrothermal activity. The United States now has more than 350 national parks, which attract millions of visitors every year.



U.S.A.: Southwest

THE SOUTHWEST is an area of huge contrasts. A lot of Oklahoma and Texas consists of flat, rolling grasslands and huge farms, while both Arizona and New Mexico are hot, arid, and mountainous, with vast canyons and river valleys carving their way through the land. Since the discovery of oil in 1901, Texas has become the country's top oil producer with Houston as the center of the billion-dollar industry. Tourism is also important to the southwest, with visitors flocking to see the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, and other natural wonders. Buildings here reflect the mix of Hispanic, Native American, European American, and modern American cultures.

**DESERT LIFE**

The saguaro cactus can reach up to 50 ft (15 m) tall, grow as many as 40 branches, and live for 200 years. Cacti, yucca, and other plants have all adapted to the hot, dry desert conditions found in the Southwest. So, too, have many animals, including the deadly rattlesnake.

Saguaro cacti in the Sonoran Desert

**THE GRAND CANYON**

The Grand Canyon in northern Arizona is one of the natural wonders of the world. This incredibly deep gorge was slowly cut out of the rock, beginning 6 million years ago, by the Colorado River. People can hike around its edge or venture down into the canyon to camp for the night.



Suburbs of Phoenix, Arizona

HOT PLACE TO LIVE
The climate across much of the southwest is hot and dry, with summer temperatures often reaching 38°C (100°F). Although water can be scarce, many people have a swimming pool in their garden so they can cool off.

**NATIVE-AMERICAN CULTURES**

Native Americans, including Navajo, Hopi, and Apache, used to live across the Southwest but are now concentrated in reservations set up by the U.S. government. The largest of these is in Arizona and New Mexico and is home to the Navajo people. The Navajo farm the land and produce crafts, such as the woven blanket wrapped around these Navajo children.



Kachina doll made by the Hopi

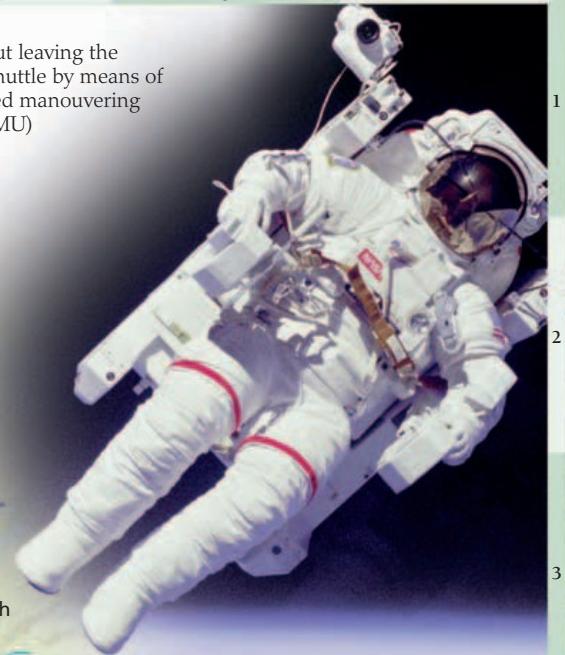




ADOBE HOUSES

Traditional homes of the Pueblo peoples of the Southwest were made from adobe bricks of sun-baked earth and straw covered with plaster. Dwellings had a flat roof and smooth walls. Modern adobe-style buildings can still be seen in the Southwest but are often made of concrete and then painted to look like adobe. Here, a woman demonstrates baking bread in an adobe oven.

Astronaut leaving the Space Shuttle by means of a manned manouevring unit (MMU)



The Grand Canyon is up to 1 mile (1.6 km) deep, 18 miles (29 km) wide, and 217 miles (349 km) long.

SPANISH INFLUENCE
Close to Mexico and Central America, the southwestern states have long been settled by Hispanic people, whose influence can be seen—and heard—throughout the Southwest. Spanish is widely spoken, and the Roman Catholic religion that the Spanish brought is evident in the churches scattered here.





Mexico

ONCE HOME TO THE GREAT Aztec and Mayan civilizations and then the focus of Spanish conquistadors who came in search of wealth, Mexico today reflects its colorful past through its culture and architecture. The majority of Mexicans is mestizo (mixed race)—of Spanish and native Indian descent. Mexico City, the site of the ancient Aztec capital, is today one of the largest cities in the world, with a population of more than 16 million. Despite oil and natural gas reserves and a plentiful supply of labor, large numbers of Mexicans are still poor, especially in rural areas and urban slums.

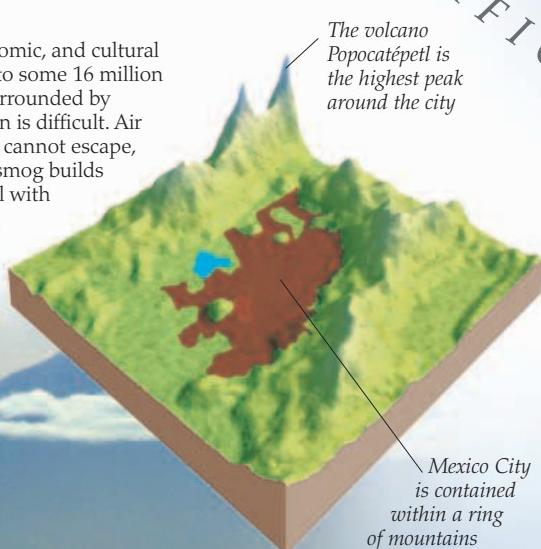


DAY OF THE DEAD

One of the biggest festivals in Mexico is the Day of the Dead. It is believed that once a year the souls of the dead can come back and visit their loved ones. In celebration of this, special food is prepared to welcome the souls, and offerings of flowers, candles, and incense are made at gravesides.

LIFE IN THE CITY

Mexico City is the political, economic, and cultural hub of the country and is home to some 16 million people. Its location, in a basin surrounded by mountains, means that expansion is difficult. Air pollution from factories and cars cannot escape, so on most days a thick layer of smog builds up over the city. Attempts to deal with the pollution, including banning cars from some areas, have had limited success.



ALONG THE BORDER

In 1994, Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which effectively bound its economy to that of the U.S. A large industrial area has developed along the Mexican border with the U.S., and many American companies have relocated south of the border to benefit from the lower labor costs.



WORKING ON THE LAND

Agriculture employs 6.5 million people—about one eighth of Mexico's work force. However, only 12 percent of the land is suitable for farming because it is so mountainous and dry. The peasant communities of the south rely on farming for their food, while communities in the north are more industrialized. Here, the agave plant is being harvested near the town of Tequila.





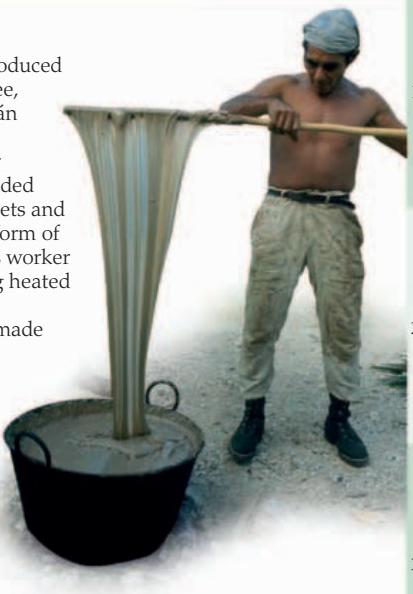
Mexican selling
baskets, Puerto
Escondido

TOURIST INDUSTRY

One of Mexico's largest employment sectors is tourism. Tourists are attracted to the numerous beautiful beaches on both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, as well as Mexico's rich blend of history and culture. Popular tourist sites include the archaeological remains of the Aztec and Mayan civilizations, such as the Mayan ruins of the city of Palenque.



CHEWING GUM
Chicle is a latex produced by the sapodilla tree, native to the Yucatán Peninsula. In 1867, American inventor Thomas Adams added sugar to chicle pellets and invented an early form of chewing gum. This worker (right) is stretching heated chicle with a stick, preparing it to be made into chewing gum.



MEDIEVAL RULERS

MEDIEVAL ROME

The Aztecs ruled a large part of this region from about 1428 until 1521, when they were conquered by the Spanish. Their capital, Tenochtitlán, was located on the site that is now Mexico City. The influence of this great civilization has left its mark on Mexico—more than 1 million Mexicans speak Nahuatl, the native Aztec language. This feather headdress is thought to have belonged to Moctezuma, the last Aztec ruler.

Aztec headaddress



Mexico is the world's main producer of silver, which is mined in the center of the country.





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Central America

VOLCANOES, EARTHQUAKES, and hurricanes threaten the livelihoods of people in the seven countries of Central America. People here have also struggled with poverty and civil war. In more recent years, however, peace and economic recovery have offered hope, and education is now free in all countries. Remains of the ancient Mayan civilization that flourished until the 1500s, when the Spanish invaded, can be seen throughout the region. Large numbers of the native population died after the invasion, mostly from disease. Today, Spanish is the main language of the region.



FAUNA AND FLORA

Ecotourism, which encourages visitors but aims to protect and preserve the environment, is increasingly important in the region. In Belize, tourists can dive in the clear, warm waters off the world's second-largest barrier reef, and there are wildlife hikes to many forest areas. Animals include jaguars, howler monkeys, and butterflies.

TEMPLE PYRAMIDS

Between 250–900 ce, the Maya designed ceremonial centers filled with temples, courts, and plazas. Without metal, they shaped tools from the solid lava of volcanoes to carve the limestone buildings. One of the largest sites is at Tikal (left), Guatemala, where temple remains lie in a huge area of tropical rainforest.



DECORATED CHURCHES

The Spanish colonizers of the 1500s, and the missionaries who came with them, converted the native population and established Roman Catholicism throughout Central America. They also built many beautifully decorated churches. The one shown here, El Merced, is built in a low, squat style to resist the ever-present threat of earthquakes. The majority of people still follow the Roman Catholic faith.

VOLCANIC REGION

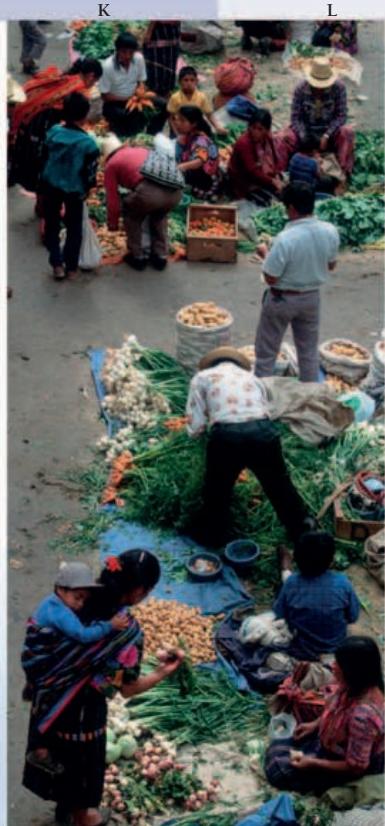
Central America is an unstable area because it lies along the meeting point of two of Earth's tectonic plates. There are at least 14 active volcanoes here, including Volcán de Pacaya (right). Although this makes it a dangerous place to live, the volcanic soil is very fertile and is good for crops.

D E F G H

*Lake Nicaragua
is the only
freshwater lake
in the world
that contains
sharks.*

FOOD MARKETS

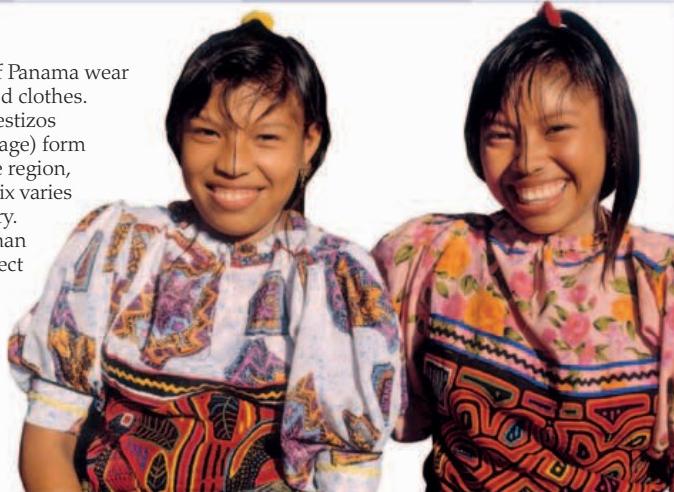
FOOD MARKETS
Coffee, bananas, and sugar cane are all key exports from here to the food markets of the world. Most are cultivated on large plantations. However, food for the local population, such as potatoes, avocados, rice, and corn, is grown on small farms and sold at local markets.



Market, selling fresh fruit
and vegetables

NATIVE PEOPLES

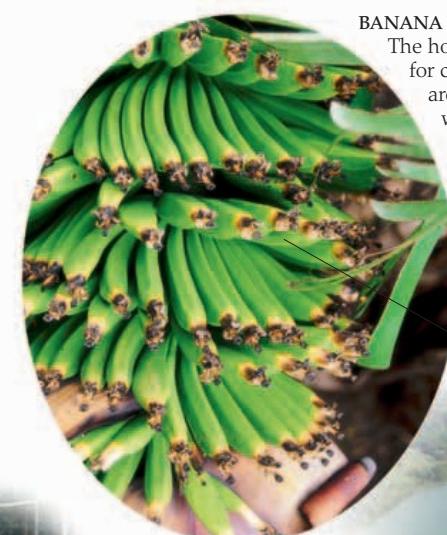
NATIVE FOLKLES
These Cuna Indians of Panama wear traditional embroidered clothes. Native Indians and mestizos (people of mixed heritage) form a small minority in the region, although the ethnic mix varies from country to country. In Guatemala, more than half the people are direct descendants of the Maya Indians.



BANANA INDUSTRY

The hot, wet climate of Honduras is perfect for cultivating fruit, such as bananas. These are often grown on huge plantations, which employ local people who may work long hours for very little pay. Once cut down, the bananas are washed, inspected, and packed into boxes to be sent overseas. Bananas are a major export for Honduras.

As bananas grow,
they begin to point
upward



COFFEE BEANS

COSTA RICA
Costa Rica was the first country in Central America to grow coffee and today produces more than 100,000 tons each year. Coffee is harvested from the fruit of the coffee bush. Once picked, the beans are left to dry in the sun. This worker is raking the beans as they dry.



COSTA RICA



PANAMA CANAL
Forming a vital link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Panama Canal is one of the world's busiest waterways. After sharing the canal with the U.S., Panama took full control in 1999. Over the years, trade has made Panama City a major financial center.



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The Caribbean

THIS REGION CONSISTS of thousands of islands stretching from Cuba in the west to Trinidad and Tobago in the southeast. European colonists wanted control of the islands in the 1500s, but the diseases they brought wiped out most of the local Carib and Arawak peoples. African slaves, imported to work on plantations, replaced local peoples, and today most of the population are descended from those Africans. English, Spanish, and French are spoken in different countries, depending on which European power claimed the territory. Tourism and agriculture are major sources of employment.

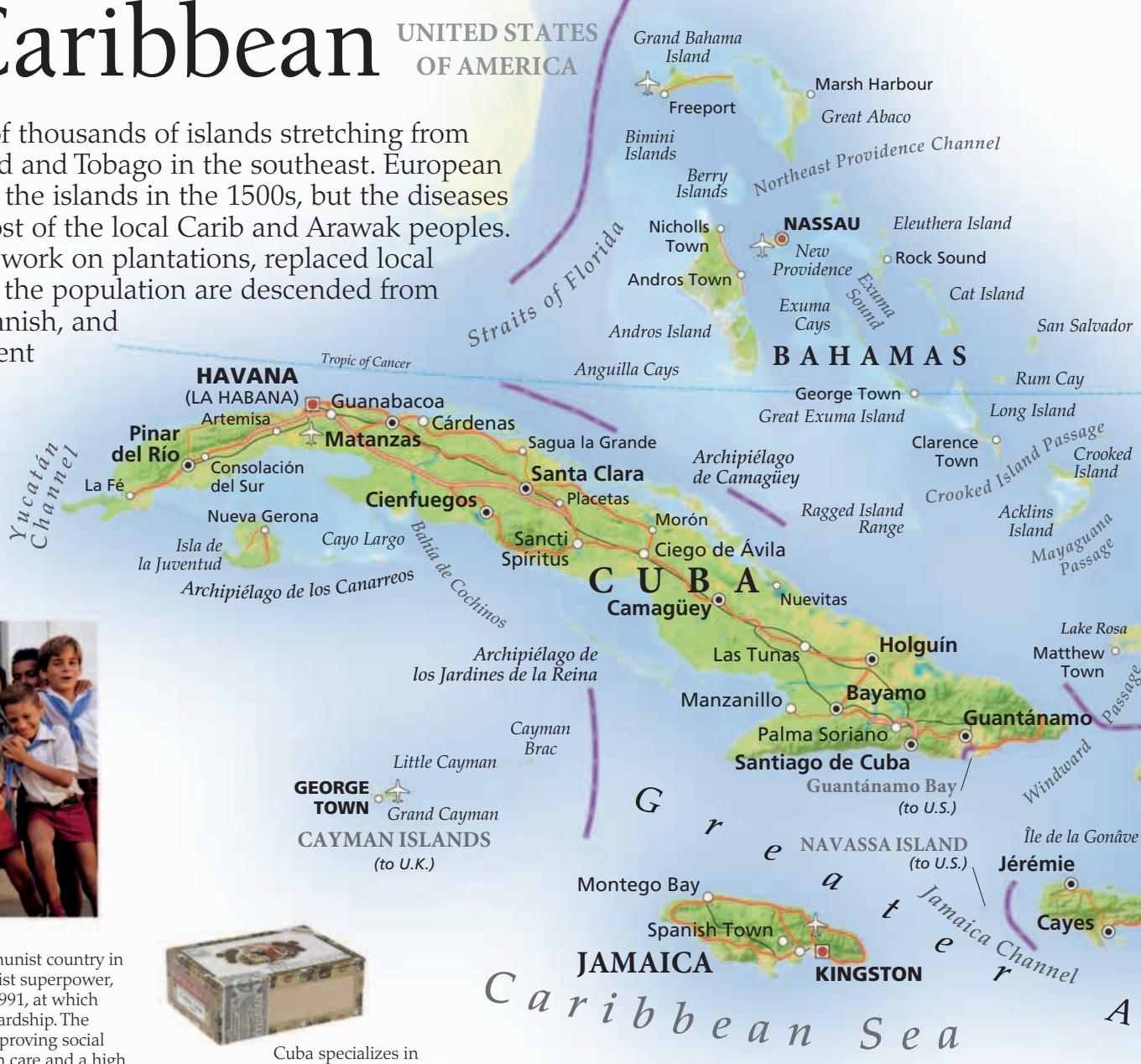
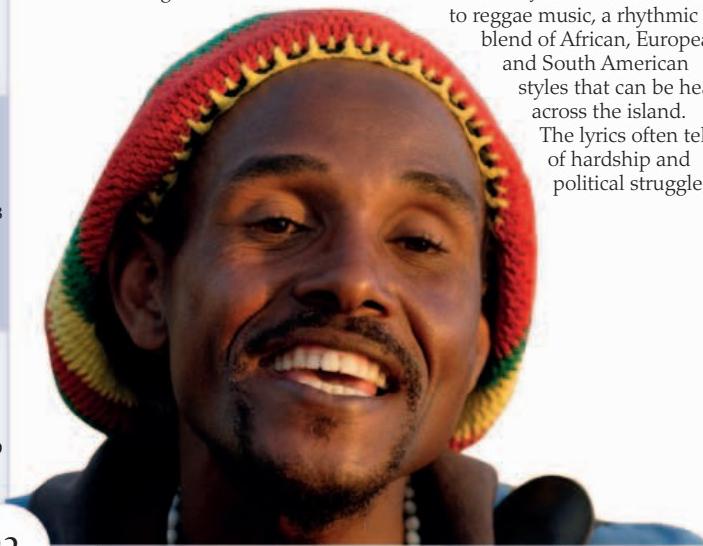
**CUBA**

Cuba is the largest island and the only communist country in the region. It was supported by the communist superpower, the U.S.S.R., until the U.S.S.R. collapsed in 1991, at which time many Cubans suffered great economic hardship. The Cuban government invested its money in improving social services. The people benefit from good health care and a high literacy rate. Children who complete pre-college education are awarded the *Bachillerato*.

JAMAICA

The Rastafarian religion began in Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1930s. Followers worship Haile Selassie, the former emperor of Ethiopia (Ras Tafari), and believe that God will lead black people back to Ethiopia, the Promised Land. Jamaica is also home to reggae music, a rhythmic blend of African, European, and South American styles that can be heard across the island. The lyrics often tell of hardship and political struggle.

Rastafarian, whose religion forbids him from cutting his hair



Cuba specializes in making top-quality cigars

The most densely populated country in the Caribbean is Barbados.

CARIBBEAN CROPS

The semitropical climate here creates ideal conditions for many crops, especially sugar. The growing and processing of sugar is an important industry in Cuba, Jamaica, and many of the Lesser Antilles, providing jobs and income for the region. Fermented cane sugar is used to make rum and is a major export.



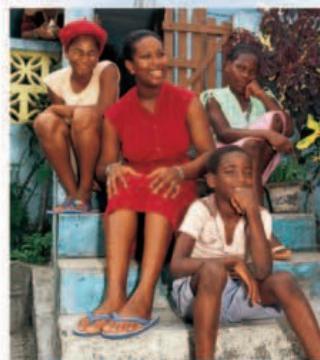
HURRICANES
The Caribbean islands can be devastated by hurricanes between May and October each year. These powerful and damaging storms occur when a normal storm builds up energy as it moves across the Atlantic Ocean. Eventually, violent winds and torrential rain are released on the islands.



Tropic of Cancer

Mayaguana
Caicos Passage
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS (to U.K.)
COCKBURN TOWN
Little Inagua
Great Inagua

FAMILY LIFE
Family is very important here, and is usually the center of everyday life. Some Caribbean people migrated to other countries, such as the U.K., but return when they retire – often bringing considerable money back with them.



TROPICAL ISLES
White sand and warm water attract vast numbers of visitors to these islands. Tourism is important to the economies of many countries, including the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. Many people work in tourism-related jobs, such as at hotels.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Cap-Haïtien Monte Cristi Puerto Plata Santiago San Francisco de Macorís Gonaïves La Vega La Romana Santo Domingo Isla Saona Isla Mona Isla Beata



HAITI
Haiti was the first Caribbean country to become independent. However, political unrest, combined with poor soils, have made Haiti one of the poorest countries in the world. Health-care and sanitation levels are poor and, as a result, life expectancy is low.

Haitian man selling flowers

COLOMBIA

ARUBA (to Netherlands)
ORANJESTAD

CURAÇAO (to Netherlands)**BONAIRE (to Netherlands)**

VENEZUELA

SAN JUAN
PUERTO RICO (to U.S.)
Caguas
Ponce
Mayagüez

VIRGIN ISLANDS (to U.S.)
ROAD TOWN
CHARLOTTE AMALIE

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (to U.K.)

SAINT KITTS & NEVIS

L e s s e r A n t i l l e s



A TIME TO CELEBRATE
The celebration of Diwali (Hindu), Eid al-Fitr (Muslim), and Christmas (Christian) reflect the varied religions of people in Trinidad and Tobago. The woman above is dressed for Carnival in Port of Spain to mark the beginning of the Christian season of Lent.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Lesser Antilles Islands

ANGUILLA (to U.K.)
THE VALLEY
Sint Maarten (to Netherlands)

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
Barbuda
ST JOHN'S Antigua

PLYMOUTH
GUADELOUPE Grande Terre (to France)
Pointe-à-Pitre
Marie-Galante

MONTSERRAT (to U.K.)
BASSE-Terre Basse-Terre

DOMINICA ROSEAU
Martinique Passage

MARTINIQUE (to France)
FORT-DE-FRANCE St. Lucia Channel

ST. LUCIA CASTRIES
Saint Vincent Vieux Fort
Saint Vincent Passage

BARBADOS BRIDGETOWN
The Grenadines

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES KINGSTOWN

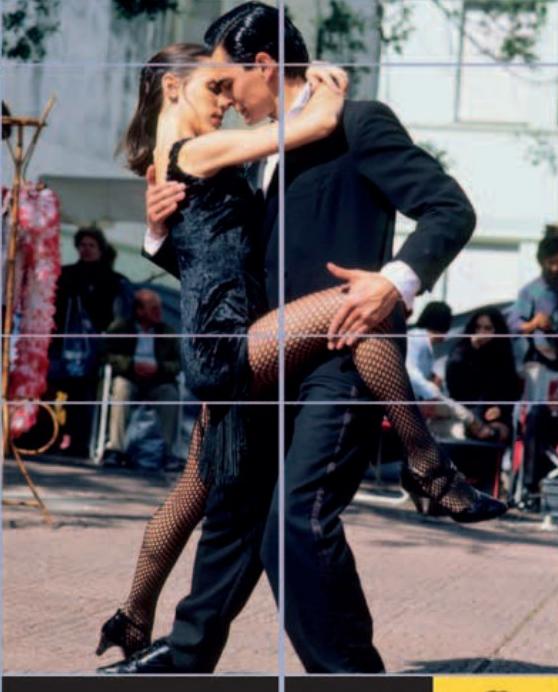
GRENADA ST. GEORGE'S

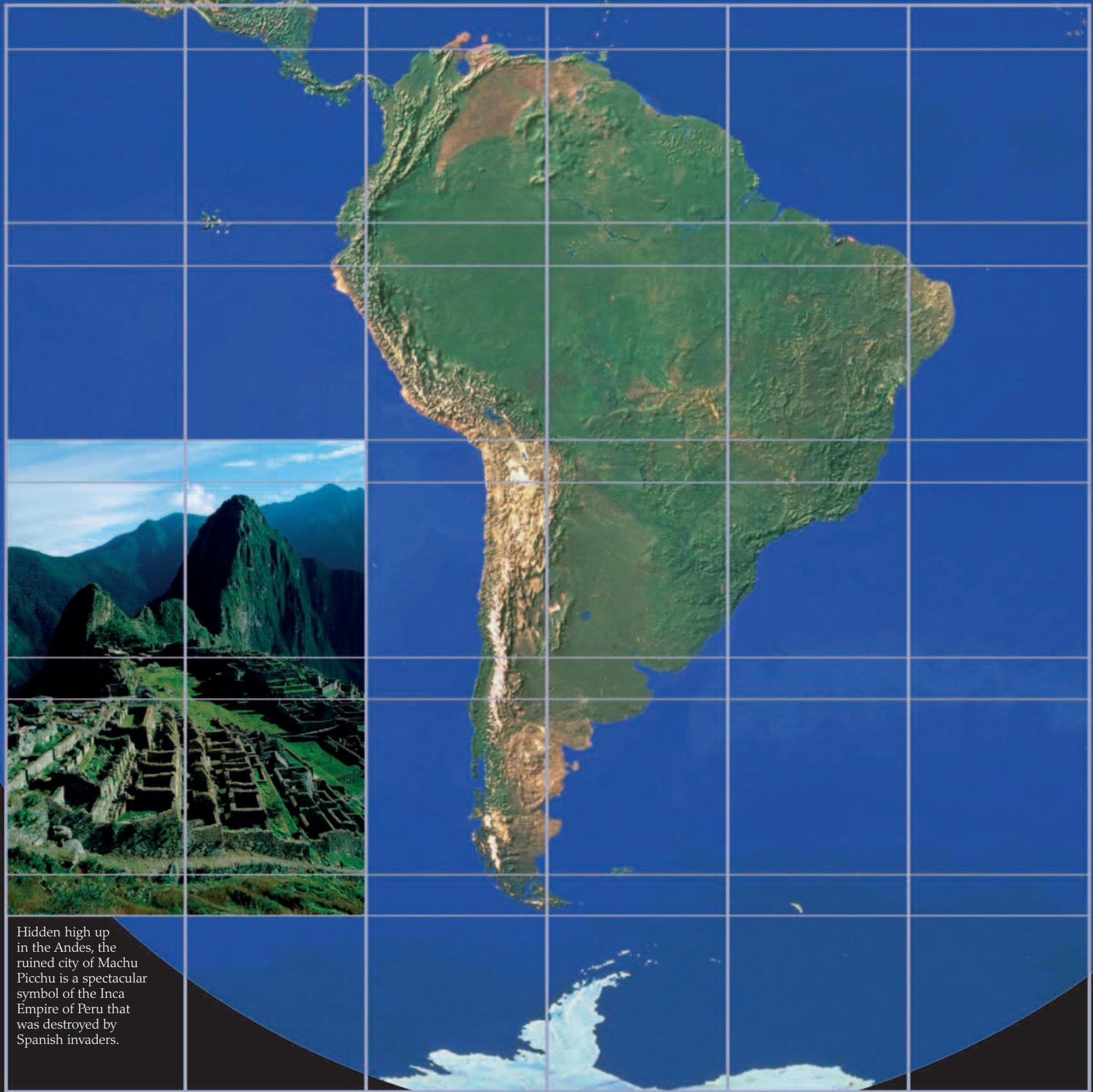
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO PORT-OF-Spain
Trinidad
Gulf of Paria
San Fernando

Tobago

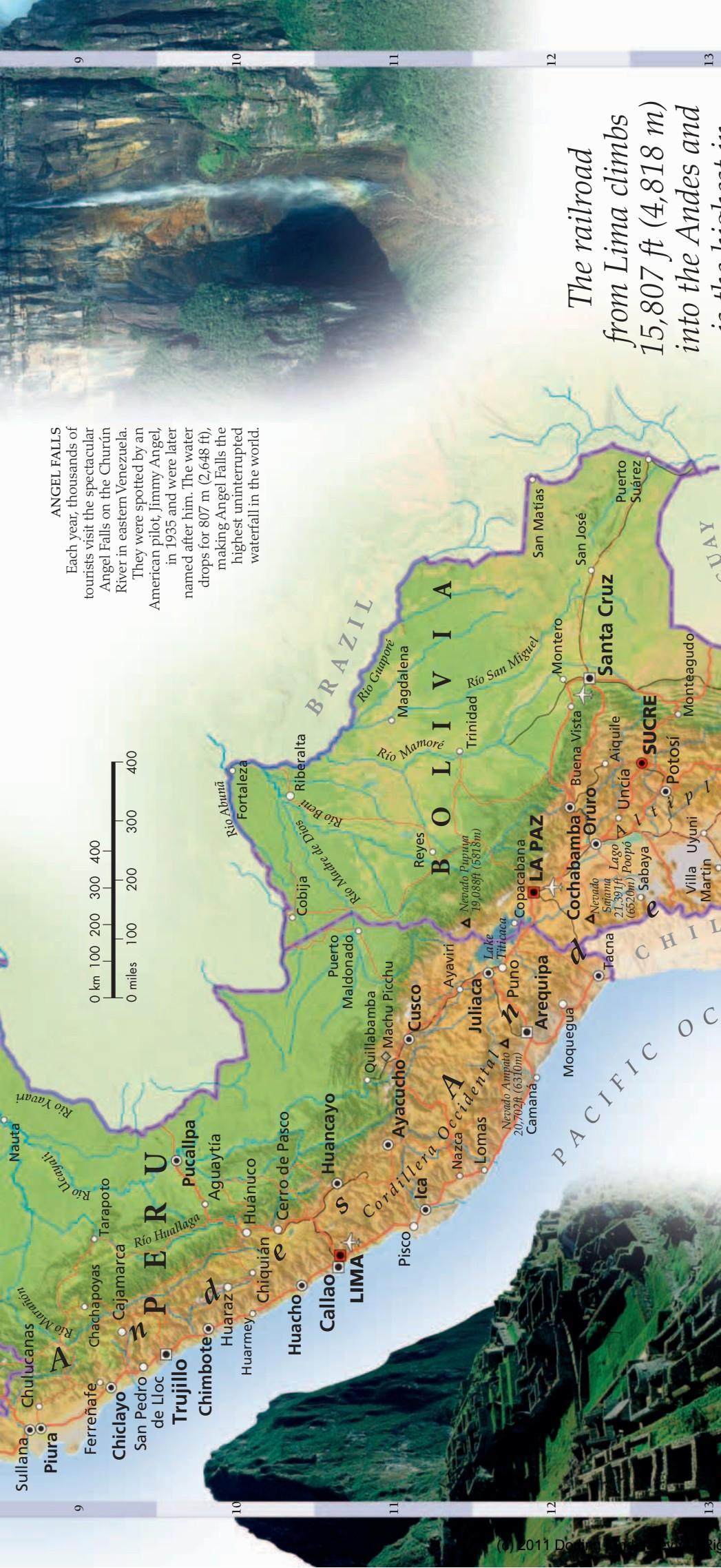
SOUTH AMERICA

Although South America is much poorer than its northern neighbor, it is rich in natural resources. Its mineral wealth led to its invasion by the Portuguese and Spanish in the 1500s, and their languages and culture still shape the lives of the people here. The nations below are listed in order of area, headed by Brazil—the world's fifth-largest country.

Brazil  3,287,612 sq miles 8,514,877 sq km 194,000,000 Brasília Portuguese, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Japanese, Amerindian languages	Venezuela  352,144 sq miles 912,050 sq km 28,600,000 Caracas Spanish, Amerindian languages		Latin American culture is world famous, thanks to its infectious music and dance. Here a couple in Buenos Aires, Argentina, demonstrates the art of the tango.
Bolivia  424,164 sq miles 1,098,581 sq km 9,860,000 La Paz Aymara, Quechua, Spanish	Chile  291,933 sq miles 756,102 sq km 17,000,000 Santiago Spanish, Amerindian languages		
Argentina  1,073,518 sq miles 2,780,400 sq km 40,300,000 Buenos Aires Spanish, Italian, Amerindian languages	Paraguay  157,048 sq miles 406,752 sq km 6,350,000 Asunción Guaraní, Spanish, German		Ecuador  109,484 sq miles 283,561 sq km 13,600,000 Quito Spanish, Quechua, other Amerindian languages
Peru  496,225 sq miles 1,285,216 sq km 29,200,000 Lima Spanish, Quechua, Aymara		Guyana  83,000 sq miles 214,969 sq km 762,500 Georgetown English Creole, Hindi, Tamil, Amerindian languages, English	Uruguay  68,037 sq miles 176,215 sq km 3,360,000 Montevideo Spanish
Colombia  439,737 sq miles 1,138,914 sq km 45,700,000 Bogotá Spanish, Wayuu, Páez, and other Amerindian languages		Soccer is a national passion in Brazil. Most of these barefoot boys on Ipanema beach, Rio de Janeiro, will be dreaming of playing for Brazil in the World Cup.	Suriname  63,251 sq miles 163,820 sq km 519,700 Paramaribo Sranan (creole), Dutch, Javanese, Sarnami Hindi, Saramaccan (creole), Chinese, Carib



Hidden high up in the Andes, the ruined city of Machu Picchu is a spectacular symbol of the Inca Empire of Peru that was destroyed by Spanish invaders.



9

ANGEL FALLS

Each year, thousands of tourists visit the spectacular Angel Falls on the Churún River in eastern Venezuela.

They were spotted by an American pilot, Jimmy Angel, in 1935 and were later named after him. The water drops for 807 m (2,648 ft), making Angel Falls the highest uninterrupted waterfall in the world.

0 km 100 200 300 400

0 miles 100 200 300 400

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The railroad from Lima climbs 15,807 ft (4,818 m) into the Andes and is the highest in the world.

THE INCA

The Inca first lived in the mountainous area near Cusco in Peru. By the time of the Spanish invasion, the Inca Empire extended north into southern Colombia and south through Bolivia and into Argentina and Chile. The Quechua Indians were the most powerful group in the empire, and Quechua was the official language. The Quechua and Aymara peoples now live on the high plains of the Andes.

Quechua woman in Peru

**LIFE ON THE HIGH PLAINS**

The Altiplano is a cold plateau at high altitude between two ranges of the Andes Mountains in southwest Bolivia and southern Peru. The native peoples who live here graze sheep and llamas on the windy plains. They have usually retained their own language and customs.



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MACHU PICCHU

The conquering Spaniards never found the remains of this important Inca city—it stayed a secret until Hiram Bingham, an American archaeologist and explorer, discovered its ruins hidden in the forest in 1911. Situated on a high ridge northwest of Cusco, Peru, this magnificent ruined city covers 5 sq miles (13 sq km), and has small houses, temples, and staircases built around a central square.

MINERALS

Many countries in this area have extensive reserves of gold, silver, copper, and gems. Colombia produces more than half the world's emeralds. The Inca made good use of these resources and created many beautiful golden objects, such as this llama.

LAKE TITICACA

At 12,507 ft (3,812 m), Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world. It is also South America's largest lake. The Uru people live here in houses built on huge floating reed islands. They grow potatoes, hunt birds, and catch fish, using boats made from tightly bundled reeds.



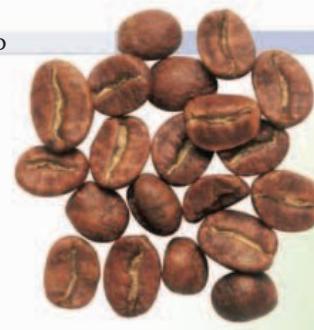


Brazil

THE VIBRANT CULTURE OF BRAZIL—with its fusion of music and dance—reflects the rich mix of its ethnic groups. The country also boasts immense natural resources with well-developed mining and manufacturing industries. Brazil grows all of its own food and exports large quantities of coffee, sugar cane, soybeans, oranges, and cotton. However, the wealth is not evenly distributed, with some people living in luxury, most struggling with poverty. São Paulo is home to almost 10 million people, but poverty and lack of housing means that many live in shantytowns without running water or sanitation. Brazil was colonized in the 1500s by the Portuguese, who established their language and Roman Catholic faith. It remains a deeply Catholic country with a strong emphasis on family life.

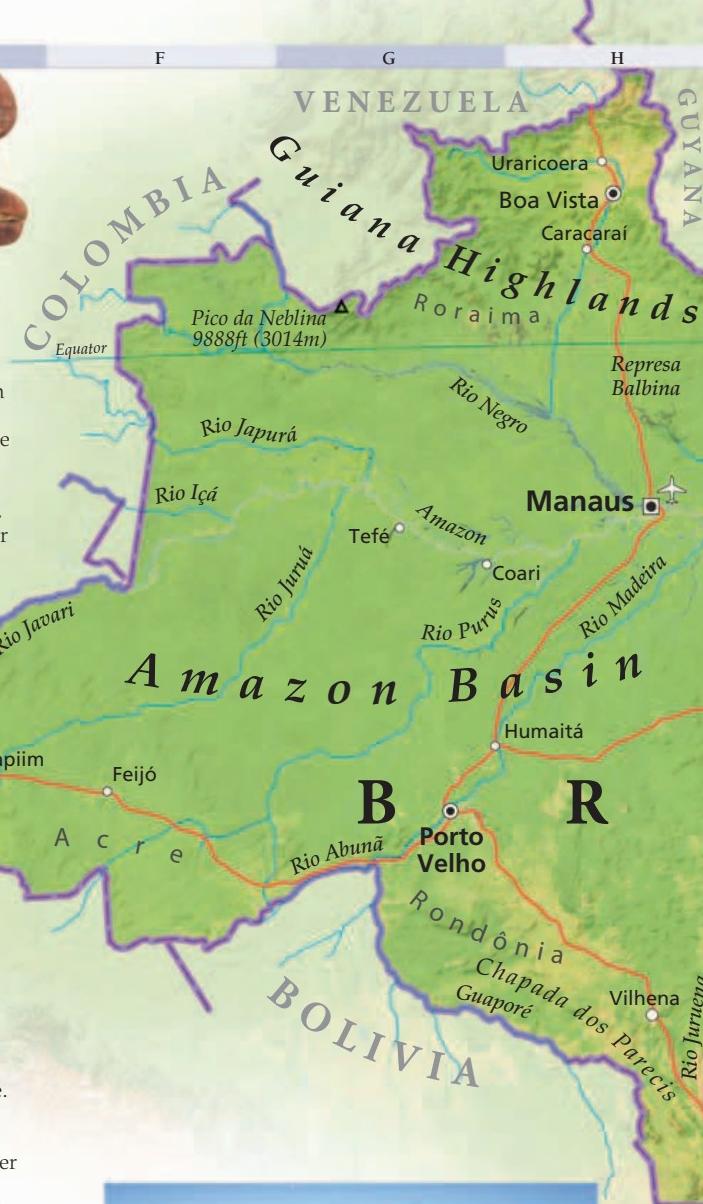


SOCCER FANS
Brazilians are passionate about football, which is played everywhere from beaches to shantytowns. There is fervent support for the national team, which has won the World Cup more times than any other country, most recently in 2002.



COFFEE

Brazil produces about one fourth of the world's coffee, which is grown on large plantations in the states of Paraná and São Paulo. However, because world coffee prices go up and down so much, Brazilians are now growing other crops for export, too.



AMAZON RAINFOREST

Covering more than one third of Brazil, the rainforest is home to a huge variety of animal and plant life. At one time, more than 5 million native Indians also lived here, but now only about 200,000 remain. Over the years, vast areas of forest have been cut down to provide timber for export, make way for farmland, or mine minerals such as gold, silver, and iron. The Kaxinawa Indians (left) still cultivate root vegetables as a food crop.



Brazilian morpho butterfly with brilliant blue wings, lives in rainforests from Brazil to Venezuela.



BRASÍLIA

Brasília replaced Rio de Janeiro as Brazil's capital in 1960 as part of a program to develop the interior of the country. Situated on land that was once rainforest, the city is laid out in the shape of an airplane. Government buildings are in the "cockpit," and residential areas are in the "wings."



PEOPLE OF BRAZIL
Brazilians come from a variety of different ethnic groups, including descendants of the original native Indians, Portuguese colonizers, African slaves brought over to work in the sugar plantations, and European migrants.



AMAZON TRANSPORT

The Amazon River provides Brazil with its most important transportation link, not only for tourists but also for trade. Large boats can travel as far inland as the city of Manaus.



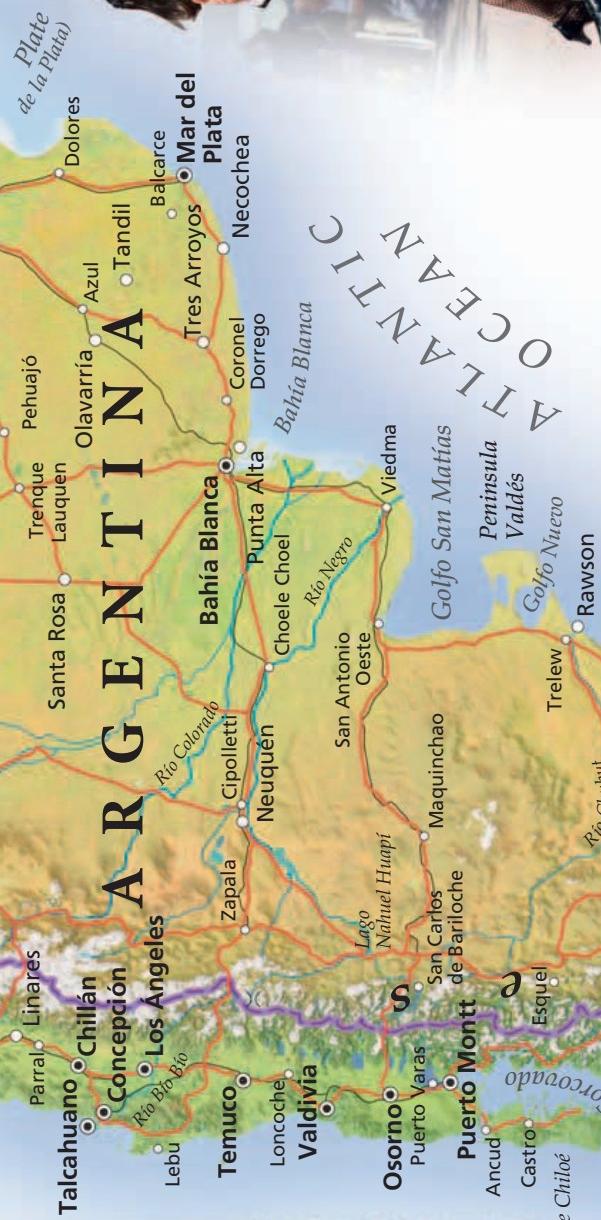
RIO CARNIVAL

During the five days leading up to Lent, Rio de Janeiro celebrates Carnival. There are parties, balls, and parades in the streets, and samba schools compete for awards for best costume and best float.

São Paulo has the world's largest Japanese community outside of Japan.

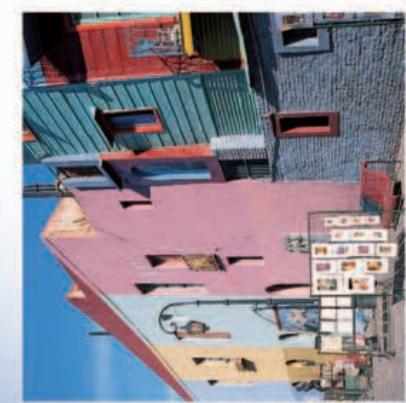
BEACH CULTURE

Wide, sandy beaches along the eastern coast of Brazil provide playgrounds for large numbers of Brazilians who come here to relax, meet friends, and play volleyball or soccer. By far the most popular beach is Copacabana (right) in Rio de Janeiro. Only the strongest swimmers brave the strong tides of the Atlantic.



WINES FROM CHILE

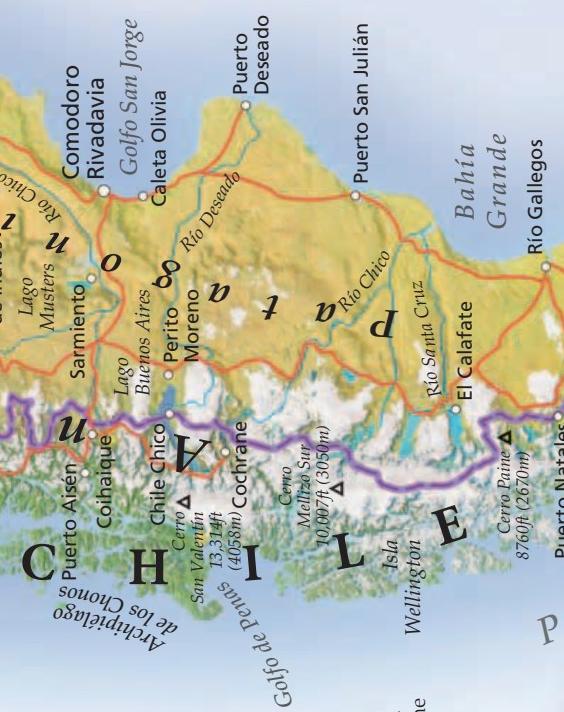
About 90 percent of Chileans live in the central region, where the rich soil is ideal for a wide range of agriculture. Vines were brought to Chile by the Spaniards, and the country now has an important winemaking industry that exports wine all over the world.



DANCING THE TANGO

Popular around the world today, the tango originated in the slums of Buenos Aires in the late 1800s. This passionate dance with its characteristic rhythm is accompanied by music on a type of accordion known as a bandoneón, together with the piano and violin.

Chile has a large concentration of astronomical observatories because of its exceptionally clear skies.



ANDES WEATHER

The Andes stretch the entire length of South America, and this has a major effect on the weather. As westerly air from the Pacific Ocean rises over the mountains, its moisture can fall as rain and snow. By the time it reaches the eastern side, the air is much drier and the landscape is more arid.

Chile has a large concentration of astronomical observatories because of its exceptionally clear skies.



PAMPAS

Vast treeless plains called the Pampas—which means “flat” in Spanish—cover most of southern and western Argentina. The Pampas are used to grow grain and raise cattle. Gauchos—Argentinian cowboys—work on large ranches, or estancias.



Gaucho herding cattle in the Pampas region

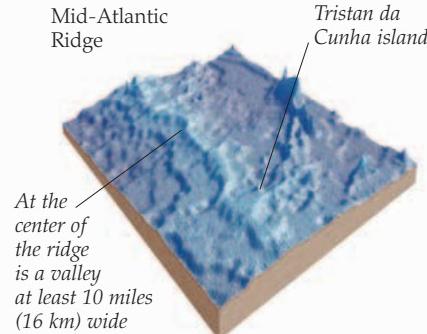


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Atlantic Ocean

THE WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST OCEAN, the Atlantic separates the Americas from Europe and Africa. The Atlantic is the world's youngest ocean, starting to form about 180 million years ago, as the continental plates began to separate. This movement continues today, as the oceanic plates that meet at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge continue to pull apart. The Atlantic is a major source of fish but, due to overfishing, stocks are now low. Many shipping routes cross the Atlantic, and pollution is an international problem as ships dump chemicals and waste. There are substantial reserves of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of west Africa, and in the north Atlantic.

WARM CURRENTS
The Gulf Stream flows up the east coast of North America and across the Atlantic. It brings warm water and a mild climate to northern Europe, which would otherwise be cooler.



UNDERWATER MOUNTAINS
The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a huge underwater mountain chain that runs the entire length of the Atlantic. It was formed by magma that oozed up from the sea bed, cooled to create solid rock, and gradually built up to form a ridge. Some peaks are so high that they break the surface to form volcanic islands, such as the country of Iceland.

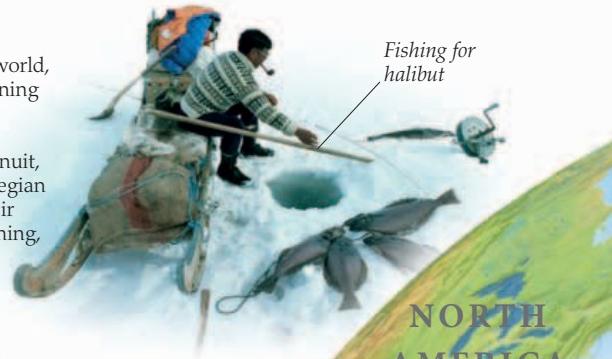
WHALES
Many whales live in the Atlantic, migrating from summer feeding grounds in the cold polar regions to warmer waters in the Caribbean for the winter. They give birth and mate again before returning north.



FALKLANDS
Set in the windy south Atlantic off the coast of Argentina, the Falkland Islands belong to the U.K. but are also claimed by Argentina. Fishing and sheep farming are important. The land is rocky, mountainous, boggy, and almost treeless.

GREENLAND

The largest island in the world, Greenland is a self-governing part of Denmark. Most Greenlanders live on the southwest coast. Mostly Inuit, with some Danish-Norwegian influences, they make their living by seal hunting, fishing, and fur trapping.

**TOURISM**

The volcanic islands and black beaches of the eastern Atlantic, especially the Canaries (left), Madeira, and the Azores, are popular with tourists, who are attracted to the scenery and subtropical climate.

**ATLANTIC FISHING INDUSTRY**

The Atlantic Ocean contains more than half of the world's total stock of fish. Herring, anchovy, sardine, cod, flounder, and tuna are among the most important fish found here. However, overfishing, especially of cod and tuna, has caused a significant decline in numbers.



Fishing for halibut

NORTH AMERICA

BERMUDA
(to U.K.)

Gulf of Mexico

Hatteras
Plains

Puerto Rico
Trench

Greater Antilles

Caribbean Sea

Colombian
Basin

Lesser Antilles

Guatemala
Basin

Panama
Basin

Galápagos Islands
(to Ecuador)

Peru-Chile
Trench

Peru Basin

SOUTH
AMERICA

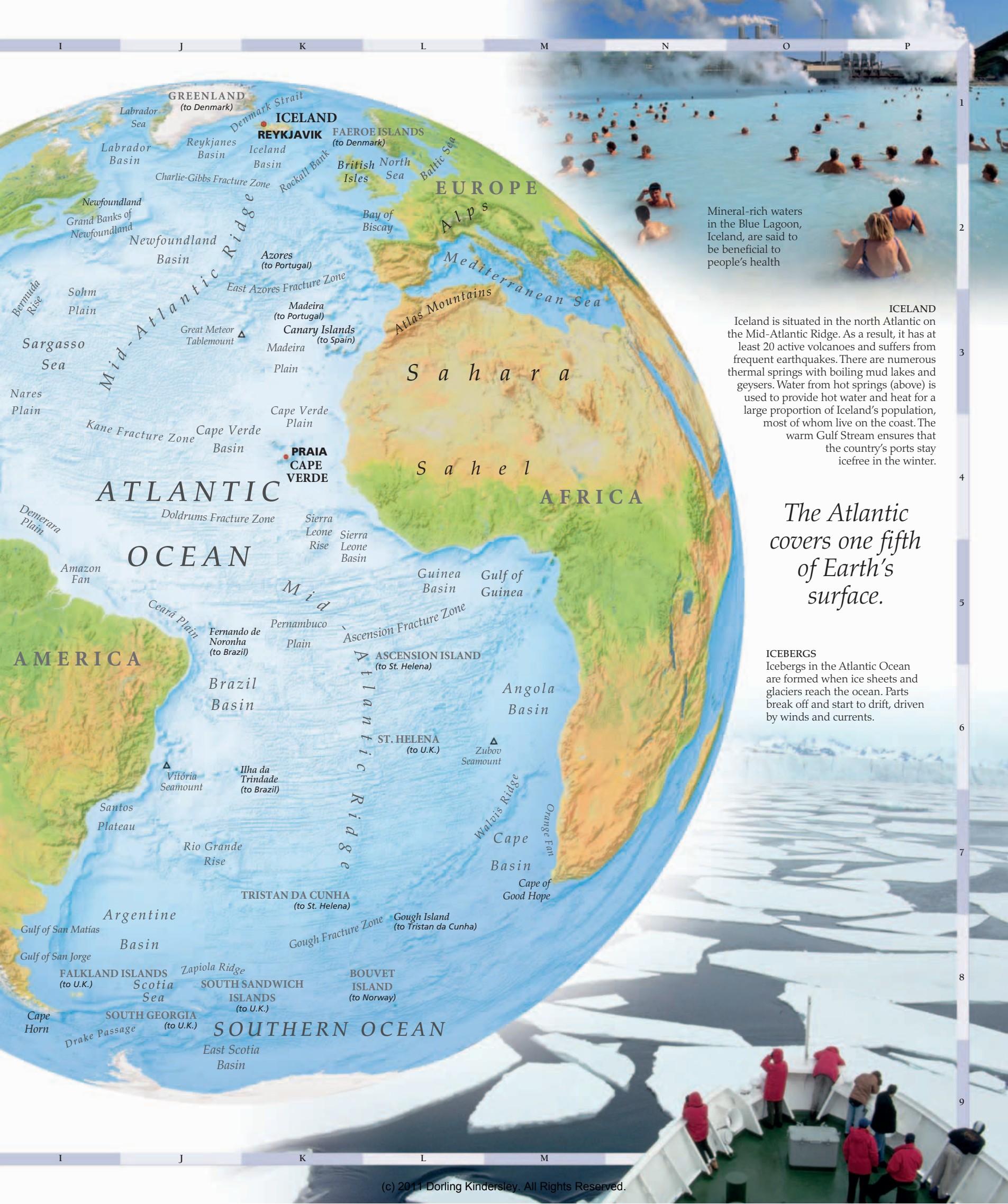
PACIFIC
OCEAN

Chile
Basin

Peru-Chile
Trench

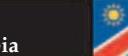
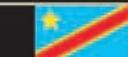
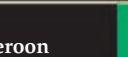
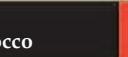
Chile Rise

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AFRICA

Covering one fifth of the world's land area, Africa has a rapidly growing population. Many of its 52 nations—listed below in order of size—are desperately poor. This is partly due to hostile climates, especially in and around the vast Sahara desert, but also because of a history of political turmoil, ethnic tension or conflict and, in some countries, war. Despite this, African culture is among the most vibrant on Earth.

Sudan		Chad		Ethiopia		Namibia		Madagascar		Zimbabwe	
967,500 sq miles 2,505,813 sq km		495,755 sq miles 1,284,000 sq km		426,373 sq miles 1,104,300 sq km		318,261 sq miles 824,292 sq km		226,658 sq miles 587,041 sq km		150,872 sq miles 390,757 sq km	
42,300,000		11,200,000		82,800,000		2,170,000		19,600,000		12,500,000	
■ Khartoum		■ N'Djamena		■ Addis Ababa		■ Windhoek		■ Antananarivo		■ Harare	
■ Arabic, Dinka, Nuer, Nubian, Beja, Zande, Bari, Fur, Shilluk, Lotuko		■ French, Sara, Arabic, Maba		■ Amharic, Tigrinya, Galla, Sidamo, Somali, English, Arabic (Oromo)		■ Ovambo, Kavango, English, Bergdama, German, Afrikaans		■ Malagasy, French		■ Shona, isiNdebele, English	
Algeria		Niger		Mauritania		Mozambique		Botswana		Ivory Coast	
919,595 sq miles 2,381,741 sq km		489,191 sq miles 1,267,000 sq km		397,955 sq miles 1,030,700 sq km		308,642 sq miles 799,380 sq km		224,607 sq miles 581,730 sq km		124,504 sq miles 322,463 sq km	
34,900,000		15,300,000		3,290,000		22,900,000		1,950,000		21,100,000	
■ Algiers		■ Niamey		■ Nouakchott		■ Maputo		■ Gaborone		■ Yamoussoukro	
■ Arabic, Tamazight (Berber: Kabyle, Shawia, Tamashek), French		■ Hausa, Djerma, Fula, Tuareg, Teda, French		■ Hassaniyah Arabic, Wolof, French		■ Makua, Xitsonga, Sena, Lomwe, Portuguese		■ Setswana, English, Shona, San, Khoikhoi, isiNdebele		■ Akan, French, Kru, Voltaïque	
Congo, Dem Rep of		Angola		Egypt		Zambia		Kenya		Burkina Faso	
905,355 sq miles 2,344,858 sq km		481,354 sq miles 1,246,700 sq km		386,662 sq miles 1,001,450 sq km		290,587 sq miles 752,618 sq km		224,081 sq miles 580,367 sq km		105,869 sq miles 274,200 sq km	
66,000,000		18,500,000		83,000,000		12,900,000		39,800,000		15,800,000	
■ Kinshasa		■ Luanda		■ Cairo		■ Lusaka		■ Nairobi		■ Ouagadougou	
■ Kiswahili, Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala, French		■ Portuguese, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo		■ Arabic, French, English, Berber		■ Bemba, Tongan, Nyanja, Lozi, Lala-Bisa, Nsenga, English		■ Kiswahili, English, Kikuyu, Luo, Kalenjin, Kamba		■ Mossi, Fulani, French, Tuareg, Diyula, Songhai	
Congo, Republic of		Mali		Tanzania		Somalia		Cameroon		Gabon	
905,355 sq miles 2,344,858 sq km		478,841 sq miles 1,240,192 sq km		365,755 sq miles 947,300 sq km		246,201 sq miles 637,657 sq km		183,568 sq miles 475,440 sq km		103,347 sq miles 267,667 sq km	
3,680,000		13,000,000		43,700,000		9,130,000		19,500,000		1,470,000	
■ Brazzaville		■ Bamako		■ Dodoma		■ Mogadishu		■ Yaoundé		■ Libreville	
■ Kikongo, Teke, Lingala, French		■ Bambara, Fula, Senufo, Soninke, French		■ Kiswahili, Sukuma, Kichagga, Nyamwezi, Hehe, Makonde, Yao, Sandawe, English		■ Somali, Arabic, English, Italian		■ Bamilike, Fang, Fula, French, English		■ Fang, French, Punu, Sira, Nzebi, Mpongwe	
Libya		South Africa		Nigeria		Central African Republic		Morocco		Guinea	
679,362 sq miles 1,759,540 sq km		470,693 sq miles 1,219,090 sq km		356,669 sq miles 923,768 sq km		240,535 sq miles 622,984 sq km		172,414 sq miles 446,550 sq km		94,926 sq miles 245,857 sq km	
6,420,000		50,100,000		155,000,000		4,420,000		32,000,000		10,100,000	
■ Tripoli		■ Tshwane		■ Abuja		■ Sango, Banda, Gbaya, French		■ Rabat		■ Conakry	
■ Arabic, Tuareg		■ English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Setswana, Sesotho, Xitsonga, siSwati, Tshivenda, isiNdebele		■ Hausa, English, Yoruba, Igbo		■ Arabic, Tamazight (Berber), French, Spanish		■ Pulaar, Malinké, Sousou, French			

Uganda		Eritrea									
93,065 sq miles 241,038 sq km 32,700,000 Kampala Luganda, Nkole, Chiga, Lango, Acholi, Teso, Lugbara, English	45,406 sq miles 117,600 sq km 5,070,000 Asmara Tigrinya, English, Tigre, Afar, Arabic, Saho, Bilen, Kunama, Nara, Hedareb										
Ghana		Benin		Guinea-Bissau							
92,098 sq miles 238,533 sq km 23,800,000 Accra Twi-Fanti, Ewe, Ga, Adangbe, Gurma, Dagomba (Dagbani)	112,622 sq km 43,484 sq miles 8,940,000 Porto-Novo Fon, Bariba, Yorùbá, Adja, Houeda, Somba, French	13,948 sq miles 36,125 sq km 1,610,000 Bissau Portuguese Creole, Balante, Fula, Malinké, Portuguese									
Senegal		Liberia		Lesotho		Rwanda		Gambia		Mauritius	
75,955 sq miles 196,722 sq km 12,500,000 Dakar Wolof, Pulaar, Serer, Diyula, Mandinka, Malinké, Soninke, French	43,000 sq miles 111,369 sq km 3,960,000 Monrovia Kpelle, Vai, Bassa, Kru, Grebo, Kissi, Gola, Loma, English	11,720 sq miles 30,355 sq km 2,070,000 Maseru English, Sesotho, isiZulu	10,169 sq miles 26,338 sq km 10,000,000 Kigali Kinyarwanda, French, Kiswahili, English	4,361 sq miles 11,295 sq km 1,710,000 Banjul Mandinka, Fula, Wolof, Jola, Soninke, English		788 sq miles 2,040 sq km 1,290,000 Port Louis French Creole, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Chinese, English, French					
Tunisia		Sierra Leone		Equatorial Guinea		Djibouti		Cape Verde		São Tomé and Príncipe	
63,170 sq miles 163,610 sq km 10,300,000 Tunis Arabic, French	27,699 sq miles 71,740 sq km 5,700,000 Freetown Mende, Temne, Krio, English	10,831 sq miles 28,051 sq km 676,300 Malabo Spanish, Fang, Bubi, French	23,200 sq km 8,958 sq miles 864,200 Djibouti City Somali, Afar, French, Arabic	1,557 sq miles 4,033 sq km 505,600 Praia Portuguese Creole, Portuguese		372 sq miles 964 sq km 162,800 São Tomé Portuguese Creole, Portuguese					
Malawi		Togo		Burundi		Swaziland		Comoros			
45,747 sq miles 118,484 sq km 5,300,000 Lilongwe Chewa, Lomwe, Yao, Ngoni, English	21,925 sq miles 56,785 sq km 6,620,000 Lomé Ewe, Kabye, Gurma, French	10,745 sq miles 27,830 sq km 8,300,000 Bujumbura Kirundi, French, Kiswahili, Xitsonga	17,364 sq km 6,704 sq miles 1,180,000 Mbabane English, siSwati, isiZulu, Xitsonga	863 sq miles 2,235 sq km 676,000 Moroni Arabic, Comorian, French							



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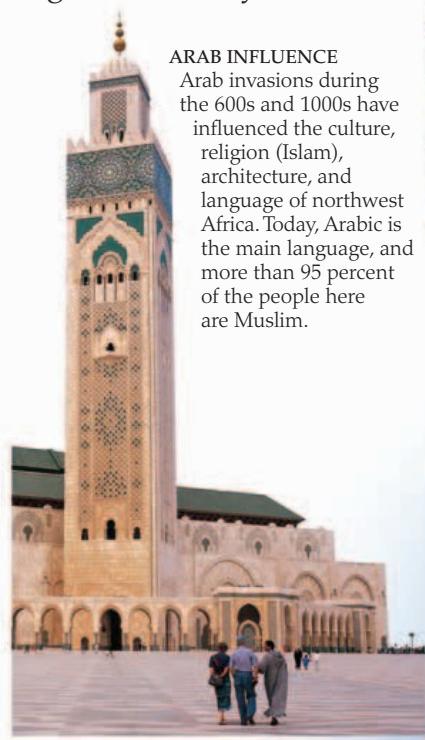
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Northwest Africa

FOUR COUNTRIES, plus the disputed area of Western Sahara, make up this part of Africa. Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia have rich supplies of oil and natural gas that boost their economies. Morocco relies on tourism, phosphates used for chemicals and fertilizer, and agriculture. In the fertile valleys of the Atlas Mountains, farmers grow grapes, citrus fruit, dates, and olives. The area also attracts tourists to its colorful markets, historical sites, and sandy beaches. The Sahara Desert dominates the region, especially in Algeria and Libya.



ARAB INFLUENCE
Arab invasions during the 600s and 1000s have influenced the culture, religion (Islam), architecture, and language of northwest Africa. Today, Arabic is the main language, and more than 95 percent of the people here are Muslim.



Muslims going to worship at the Hassan II mosque in Casablanca, Morocco

BERBERS
The Berber people were the original inhabitants of northwest Africa. Most now live in the Atlas Mountains or the desert. Although most Berbers converted to Islam when the Arabs arrived, they kept their own language and way of life. In 2001, Algeria recognized Berber (Tamazight) as an official language.

Berber woman working the land in the Atlas Mountains



SUN AND SEA

Many tourists visit Tunisia and Morocco each year to enjoy the warm climate and sandy beaches. Tourism provides jobs for the local people and brings much-needed income.



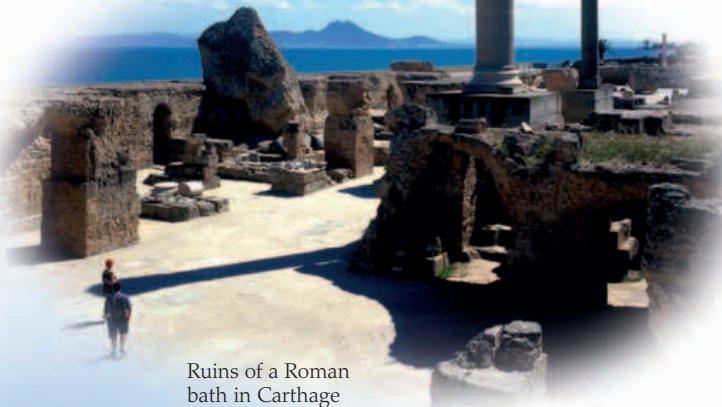


DATE PALMS
Dates are an important crop for Algeria and Tunisia. Date palms are often grown at oases, where water lies close to the surface of the desert. Here, the clusters of dates are shown ripening beneath polyethylene. Leaves from the trees can be used for thatch and the trunk is cut for timber.



ANCIENT RUINS

Phoenicians, Romans, and Greeks from ancient times have all left their marks on this part of Africa. Today, tourists come to admire the historical sites along the coast. These ruins of Carthage, near Tunis, date from 146 BCE, when Romans laid waste to this city. The Romans went on to control all of the north African coast.



The pits from dates can be roasted and ground to make a traditional date coffee.

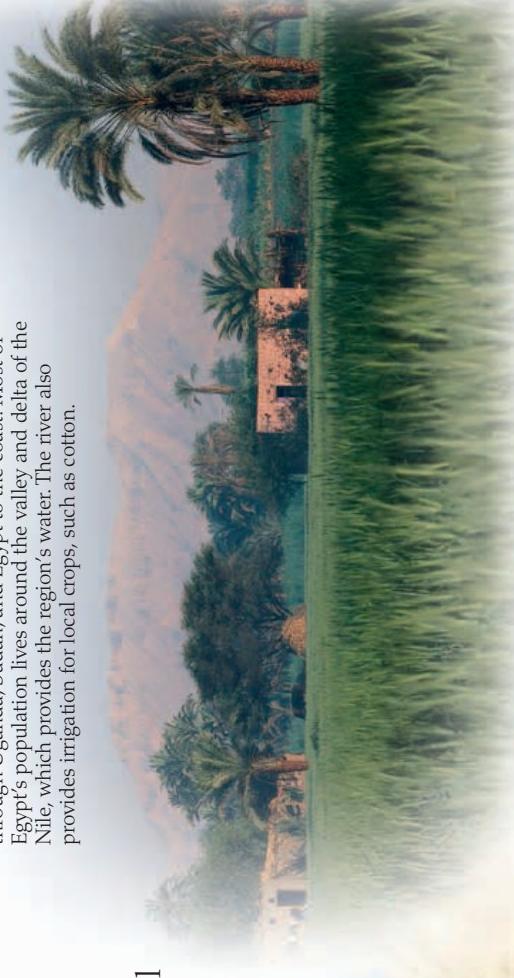


Northeast Africa

THIS REGION, KNOWN AS the Horn of Africa, contains the oldest civilizations in the continent and some of its poorest countries. The borders that divide the countries today were mostly created by colonial rulers in the last 100 years. Pastoral nomads with their herds of animals often cross these borders in search of pastures. Most people still live in the countryside and farm the land, but many people now live in cities. Tourism and agriculture are important sources of income for Egypt and Kenya, two of the richest and fastest-growing countries in the region. Elsewhere, tribal rivalries and disputes over land and resources have sometimes erupted into full-scale wars and these, together with droughts and poverty, have blighted the lives of millions of people in the region.

NILE RIVER

The Nile is the world's longest river. It flows north from Burundi running along the Tanzania–Rwanda border, then through Uganda, Sudan, and Egypt to the coast. Most of Egypt's population lives around the valley and delta of the Nile, which provides the region's water. The river also provides irrigation for local crops, such as cotton.



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ABU SIMBEL
Tourists come to Egypt to see the pyramids in Giza and the temples built in Abu Simbel, south of Aswan. Tourism brings in money to preserve these historical sites.

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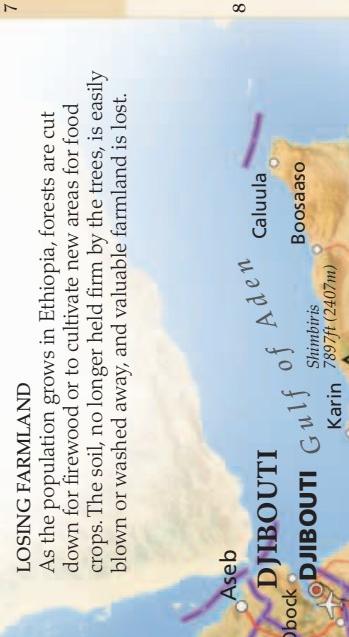
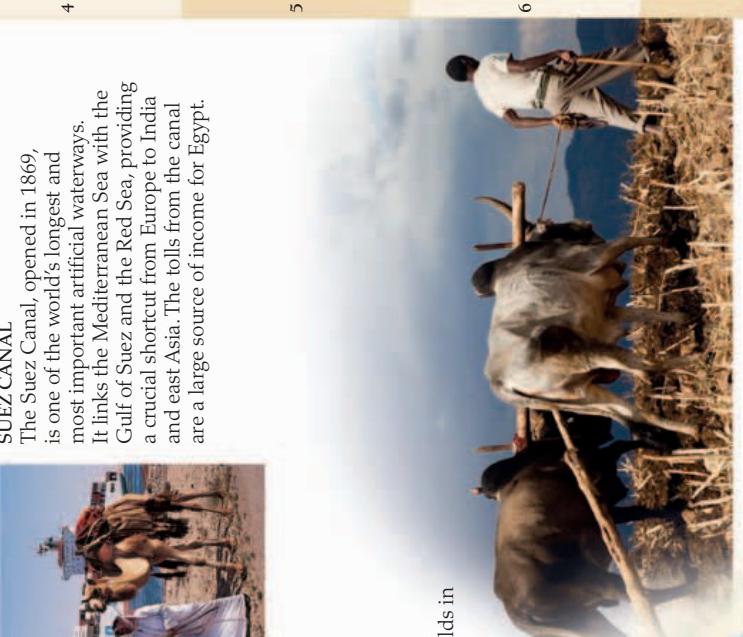
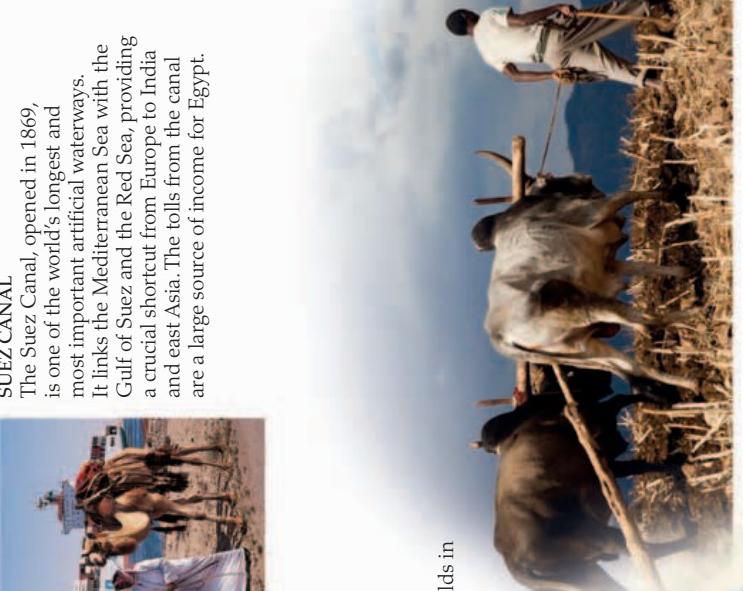


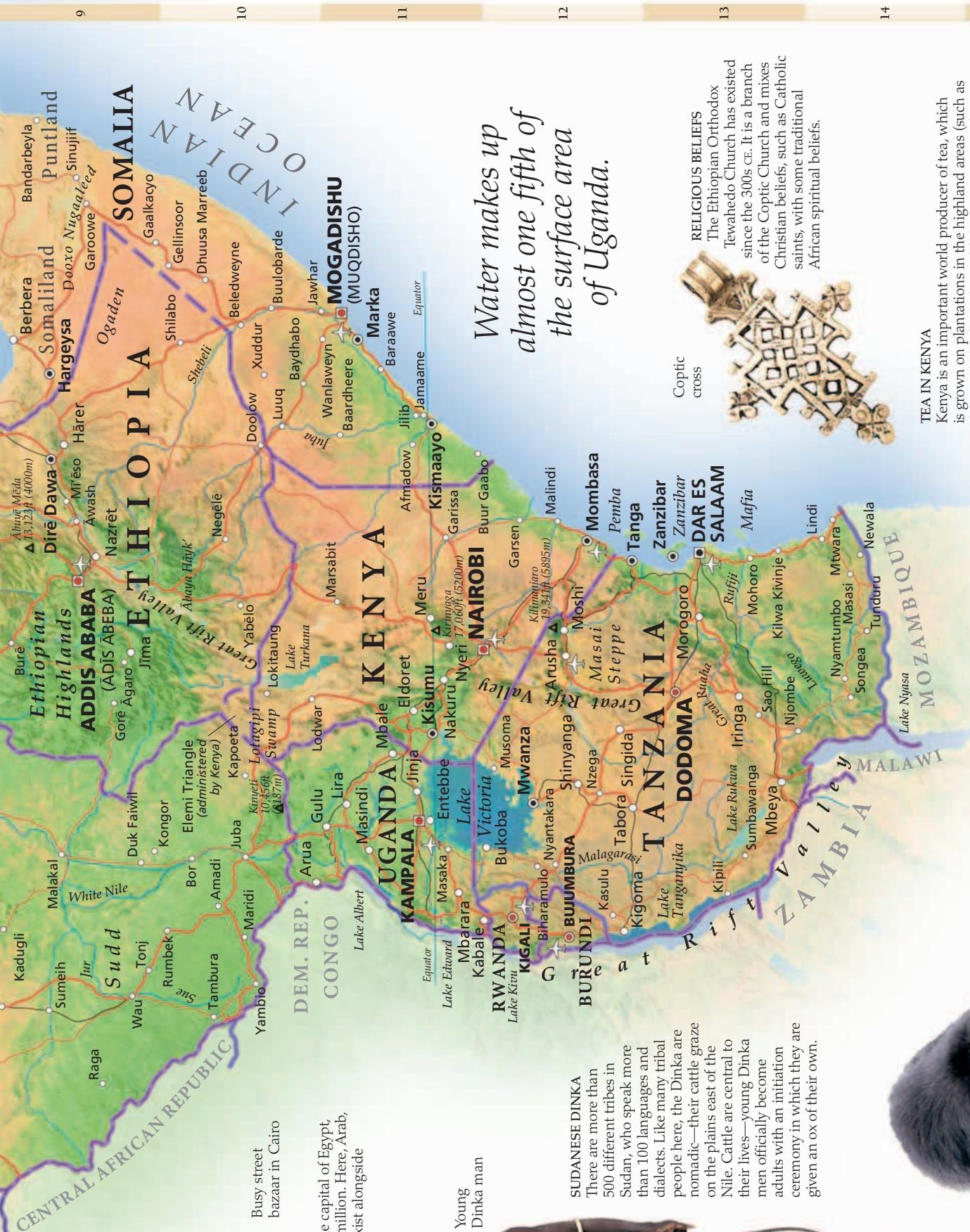
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CAIRO The largest city in Africa is Cairo, the capital of Egypt, with a population of more than 15 million. Here, Arab, African, and European influences exist alongside more traditional Egyptian customs.



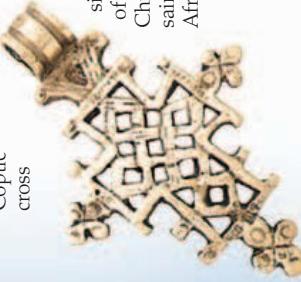
Busy street
bazaar in Cairo



SUDANESE DINKA
There are more than

There are more than 500 different tribes in Sudan, who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. Like many tribal people here, the Dinka are nomadic—their cattle graze on the plains east of the Nile. Cattle are central to their lives—young Dinka men officially become adults with an initiation ceremony in which they are given an ox of their own.

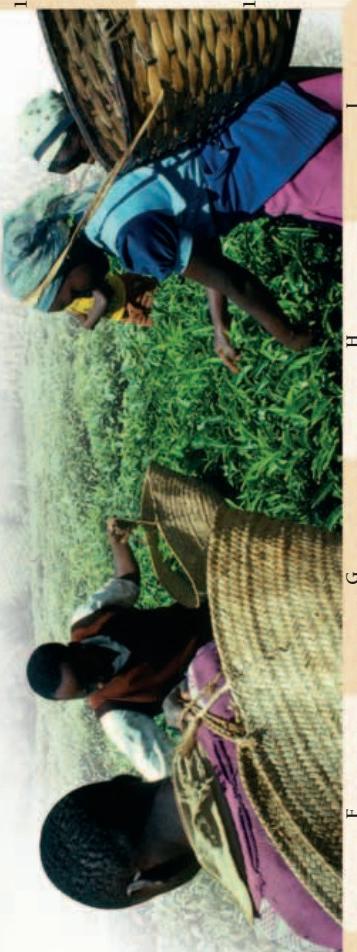
Water makes up almost one fifth of the surface area of Uganda.



TEA IN KENYA

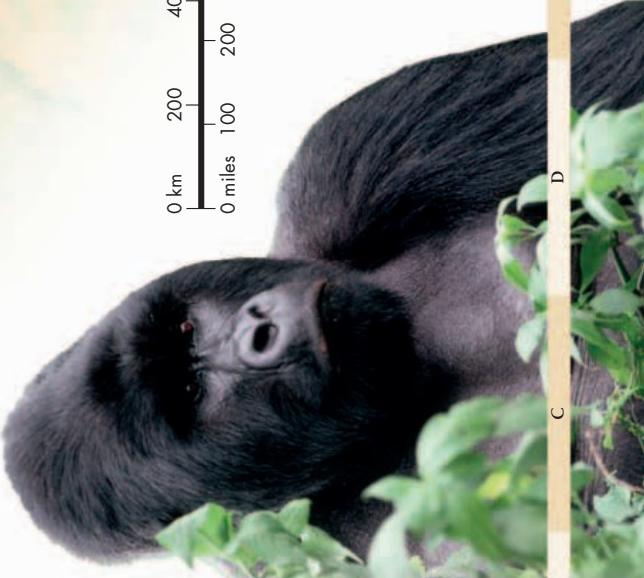
Kenya is an important world producer of tea, which is grown on plantations in the highland areas (such as this one below). High rainfall here ensures good crops. Coffee is also a valuable export.

Kenyan workers carefully select tea leaves for picking.



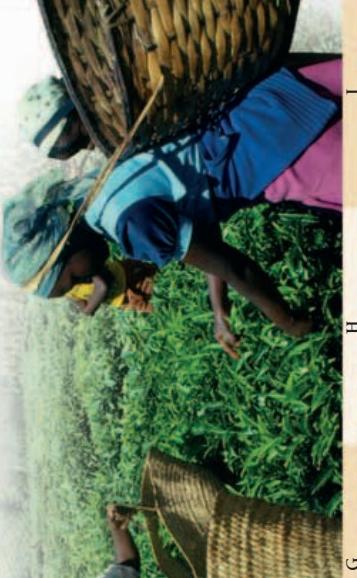
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Coffee is also a valuable export.

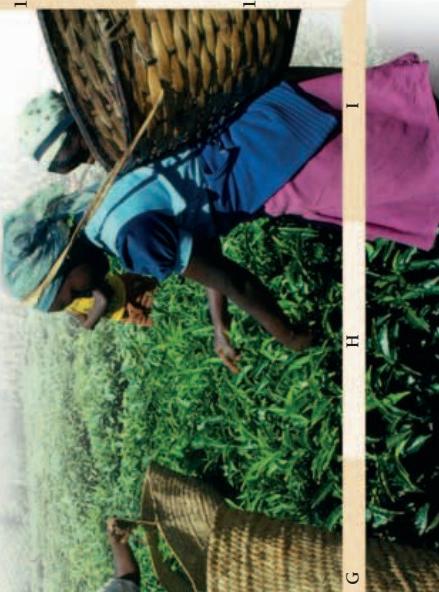


MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

In Rwanda, one of the few places where you can still see a mountain gorilla (right) in the wild. These animals are threatened with extinction because of poachers and the destruction of their habitat. Tanzania and Kenya also have many important game reserves that preserve the wildlife of the savanna.



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West Africa

DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT CLIMATES and landscapes influence life in west Africa. In the hot, dry north, it is difficult to grow crops. Only oases in the Sahara Desert and seasonal rainfall in the Sahel make crop-growing possible. To the south, the climate is warm and wet, and crops such as cocoa and coffee are grown on large plantations. This region also has many valuable minerals. Despite these rich resources, most countries are poor. Since independence from colonial powers, there has been a lot of political unrest, often sparked by poverty and tribal rivalries in the region. West Africa is also divided by religion, with Islam dominant in the north and Christianity in the south.

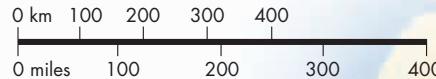
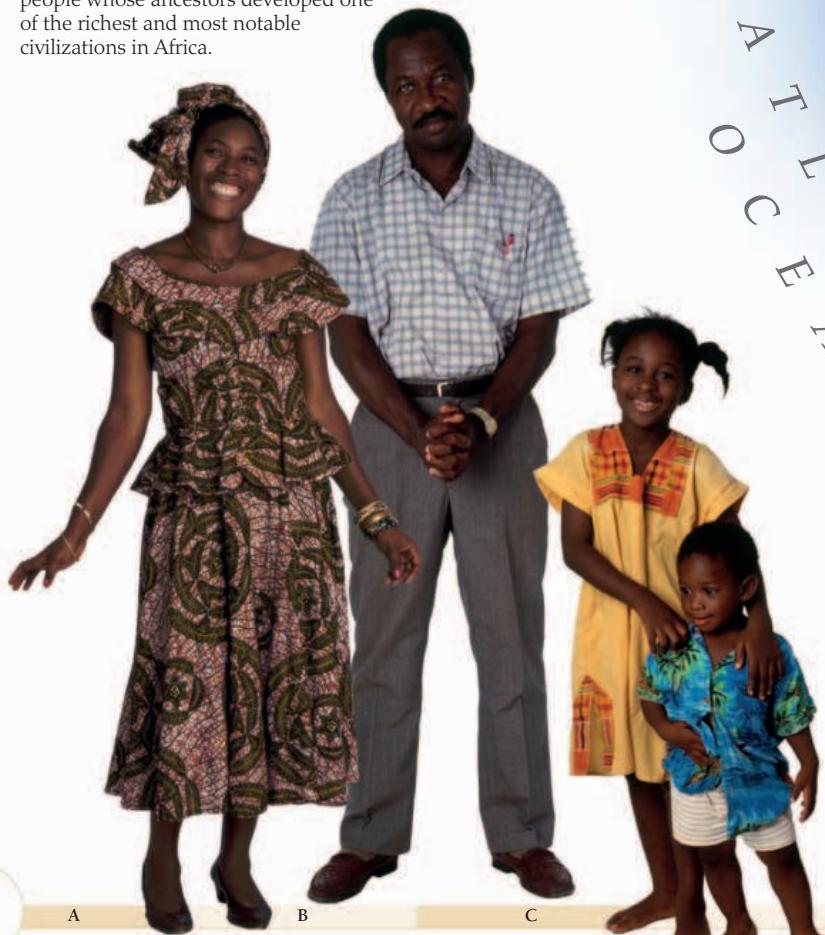


GAMBIA

In recent years, tourism has become increasingly important to the economy of Gambia. Visitors come to see wildlife along the Gambia River and to visit the Atlantic coast beaches. These safari tourists are admiring a giant termite mound.

PEOPLE OF GHANA

Family ties and a sense of community are important to the people of Ghana, and ceremonies throughout the year mark the events of childbirth, puberty, marriage, and death. About half of Ghanaians are Ashanti people whose ancestors developed one of the richest and most notable civilizations in Africa.



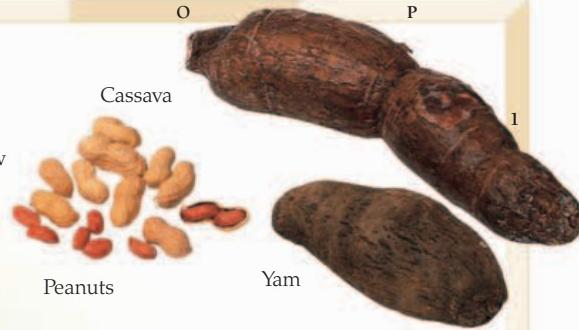
DIAMONDS AND GOLD

West Africa has many valuable minerals, including diamonds, uranium, copper, and gold. In Sierra Leone, where diamonds (left) provide crucial income, the mines have been a focus of fighting in the civil war between rebel groups and the government.



FOOD CROPS

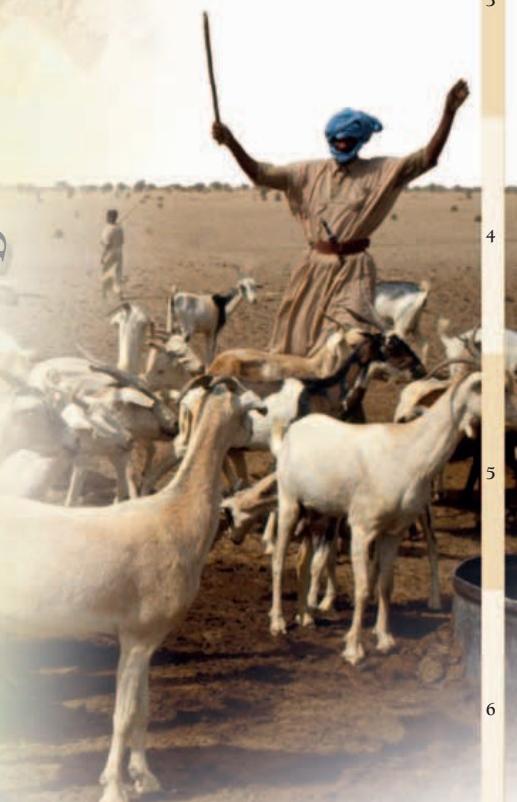
In wetter, southern regions, root vegetables, such as yams and cassavas, are grown for food. Peanuts, which also grow under the ground, are cultivated in the north for export or to cook in traditional stews.



MASKED DANCERS

Masks, such as this one from the Dan tribe of the Ivory Coast, are worn by dancers who take on different characters during tribal ceremonies. Round-eyed masks represent males, while straight-eyed masks are for females. However, the actual dancers are always men.

Lake Volta in Ghana, formed by a dam, is the largest artificial lake in the world.



WEST AFRICAN FARMERS

In the dry northern areas, crop farming is restricted to when and where seasonal rain falls. Herders are partly nomadic and they need to follow the rains in search of grazing land for their animals. Further south, where rainfall is higher, farmers grow a wider variety of crops for their families to eat, and for sale.

Herbs, shells, bones, and sticks are used by traditional healers



MEDICINE AND HEALING

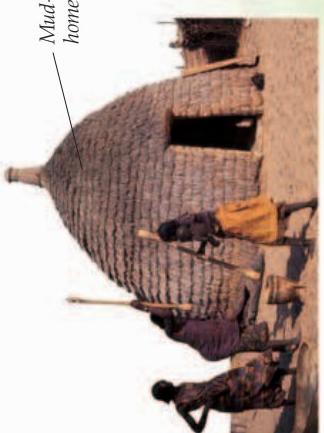
Many people here seek advice from a traditional healer if they got ill. Often the healer is also a religious leader. Treatment may include the use of herbs or magical items to fight off the enemy spirit. Healers may also chant and dance to attract good spirits.

Central Africa

ALL EIGHT COUNTRIES IN central Africa were European colonies with a painful history of slavery. Since the 1960s, independence has brought them mixed success. Rich mineral deposits and the discovery of offshore oil reserves have provided income for Cameroon, Congo, and Gabon, while civil war and repressive governments have damaged other countries in the region. These include Chad and the Central African Republic, two of the world's poorest countries.

Although the north is mostly arid, Africa's largest tropical rainforest dominates the south, with the powerful Congo River linking the interior with the coast. The tiny, volcanic country of São Tomé and Príncipe lies off the coast of Gabon.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
Although Christianity is the main religion here, many people also follow traditional beliefs. These suggest that natural objects, such as mountains and rivers, have spirits. Masks, like this Bambuku head, are sometimes used to scare off evil spirits.



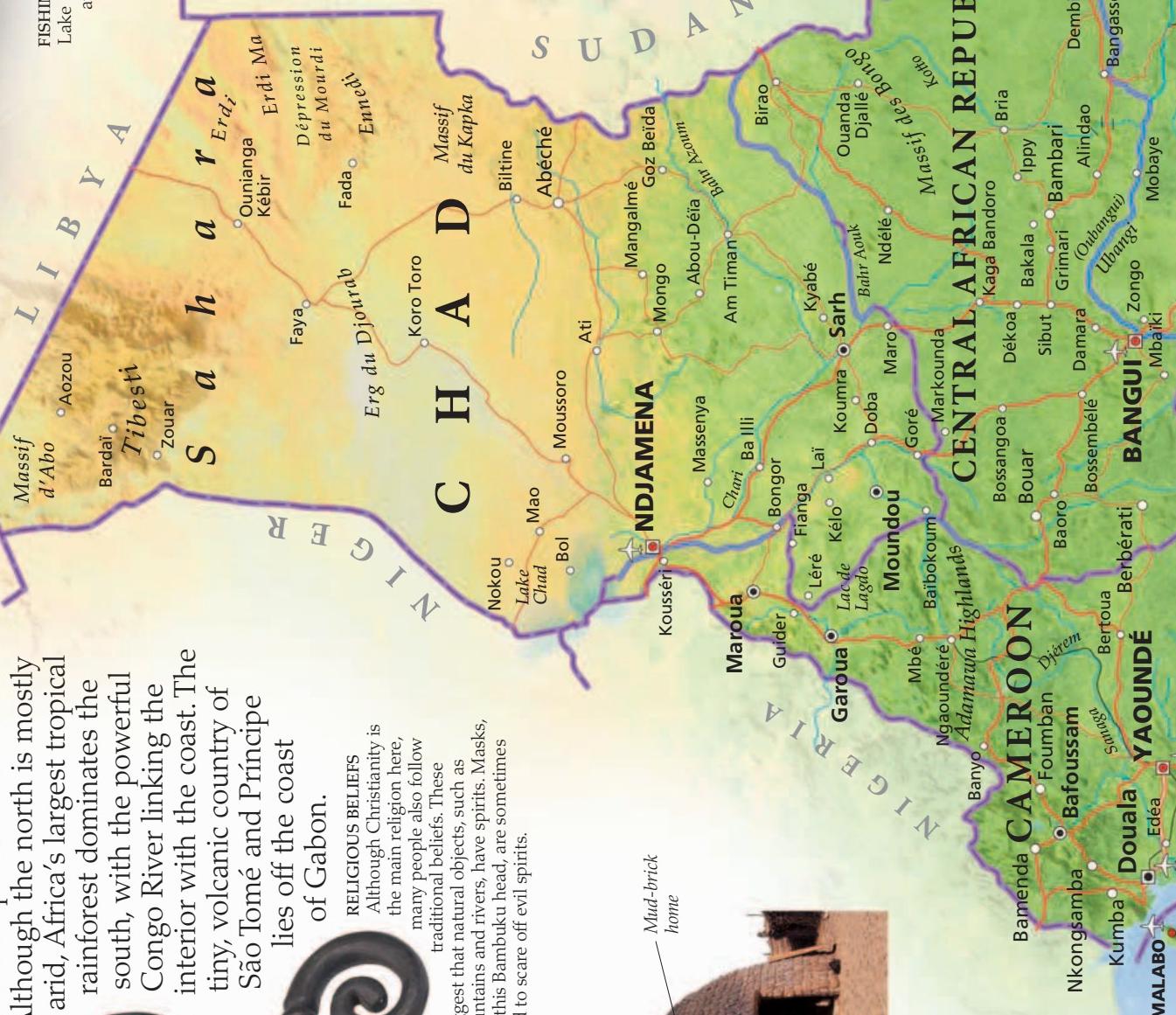
VILLAGE LIFE
Most people in rural areas live in villages or small towns. Some grow crops, such as cotton or cassava, for sale, but many exist by growing food just for their family.



FISHING IN LAKE CHAD
Lake Chad is an important source of food, but it is shrinking at an alarming rate. A shallow lake, it is now only about 6.5–13 ft (2–4 m) deep on average. Its surface area has also reduced, due to droughts and the demand for water to irrigate the land.



PEOPLE OF CHAD
With almost half the country lying in the arid Sahara Desert, more than 70 percent of Chadians work on farmland near the Chari River in the south. Across Chad there are large numbers of ethnic groups, speaking more than 100 languages. Women here live an average of only 50 years and have 6.2 children.





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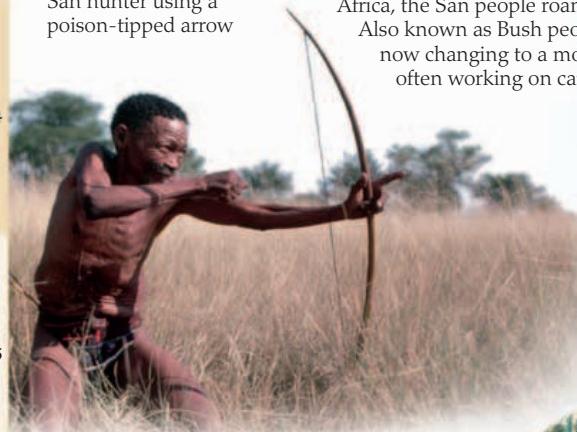
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Southern Africa

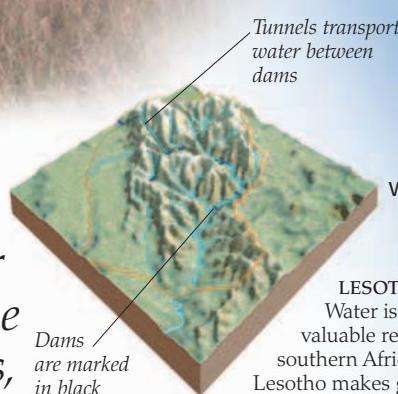
FROM THE DRAMATIC Namib and Kalahari deserts in the west to the tropical forests in the north, southern Africa is a region of contrasts. Oil, diamonds, gold, and other precious metals are all mined here. There are huge inland plains that are home to a variety of wildlife and large areas devoted to agriculture. But flooding and droughts, together with civil unrest, have hampered development so that, despite an abundance of natural resources, many countries remain poor.

San hunter using a poison-tipped arrow



SAN BUSHMEN

One of the few groups of hunter-gatherers left in Africa, the San people roam the Kalahari Desert. Also known as Bush people, many San are now changing to a more settled life, often working on cattle ranches.



Dams are marked in black

The Okavango River does not run out to the ocean like most rivers, but runs inland into the Kalahari Desert.

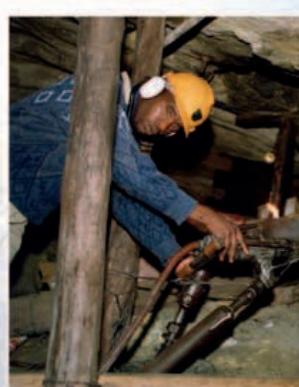
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

With a population of more than 7.5 million, Johannesburg is the fourth-largest city in Africa after Cairo, Lagos, and Kinshasa. Many people have moved here from the surrounding countryside in search of work.



GOLD MINING

Gold, first discovered near Johannesburg in 1886, brought a great deal of wealth to the region. South Africa currently produces about 12 percent of the world's gold.





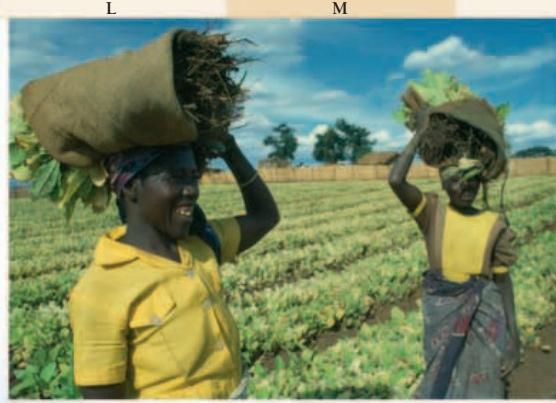
MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS

Mozambique suffered a devastating civil war until 1992, and as a result many people continue to rely on foreign aid. Floods in 2000 made conditions worse, as they left millions homeless and vulnerable.



APARTHEID

In 1994, Nelson Mandela became the first black president to govern South Africa. This historic event marked the end of white rule and the first fair elections in the new "Rainbow Nation". Apartheid was a policy of racial segregation and restricted the rights of black people.



WORKING THE LAND

In both Malawi and Mozambique, agriculture employs more than four out of every five workers. Important crops include cotton, tea, tobacco, and sugar.

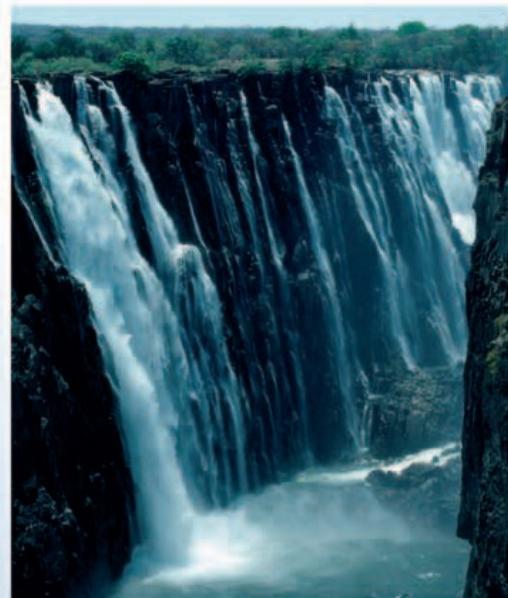


WILDLIFE

Southern Africa is home to a huge variety of animals. Numerous parks have been created to protect the animals and their habitat. The Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Park joins parks in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to form the largest conservation and ecotourism park in Africa.

VICTORIA FALLS

At Victoria Falls, situated on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border, the mighty Zambezi River drops 420 ft (128 m) down a narrow chasm. The sound of the crashing water can be heard 25 miles (40 km) away.



MADAGASCAN MAMMALS

Madagascar has an unusual range of mammals that developed in isolation after the island split from the African mainland. It is the only place where lemurs, members of the primate family, live in the wild.



ST.-DENIS

(to France)

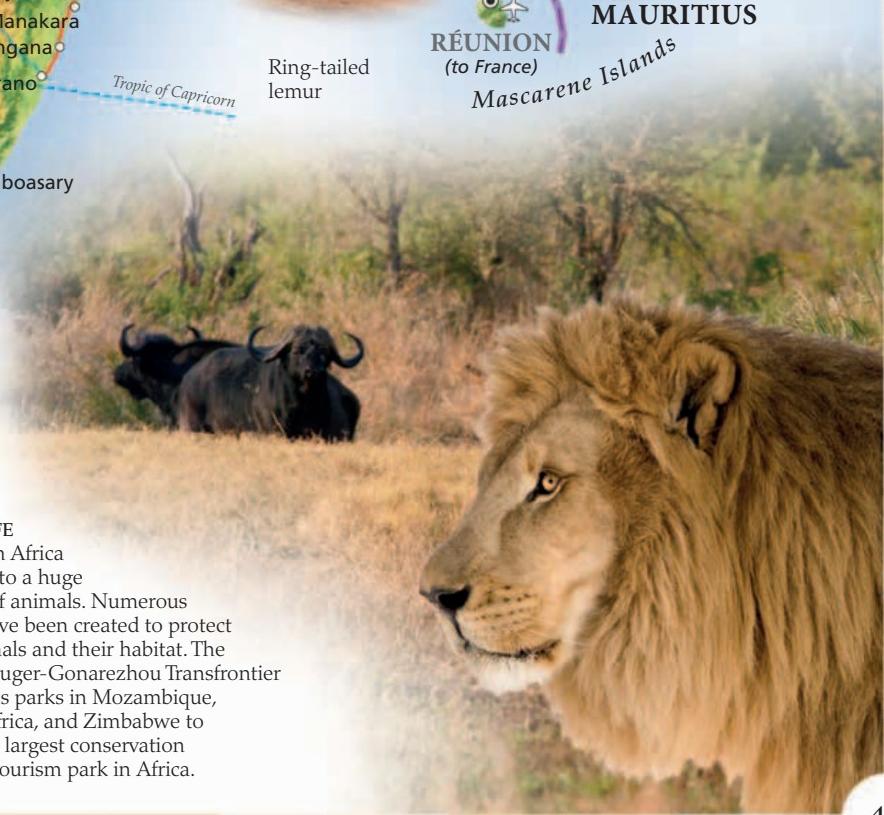
Tropic of Capricorn

PORT LOUIS

(to France)

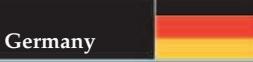
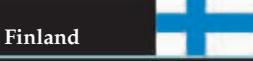
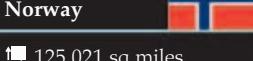
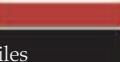
Mauritius

Mascarene Islands



EUROPE

Separated from Asia by the ridge of the Ural Mountains, Europe is a continent of very different nations, listed below in order of their land area. Each nation has its own language and culture, but they share a 2,000-year-old history of civilization that has inspired some of the world's greatest political ideas, works of art, and innovations in technology.

Russian Federation 	Germany 	United Kingdom 	Iceland 	Serbia 	Bosnia and Herzegovina 
6,601,668 sq miles 17,098,242 sq km 141,000,000 Moscow Russian, Tatar, Ukrainian, Chuval, various other national languages	137,847 sq miles 357,022 sq km 82,200,000 Berlin German, Turkish	94,058 sq miles 243,610 sq km 61,600,000 London English, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish Gaelic	39,769 sq miles 103,000 sq km 322,700 Reykjavik Icelandic	29,913 sq miles 77,474 sq km 7,750,000 Belgrade Serbian, Hungarian (Magyar)	19,767 sq miles 51,197 sq km 3,770,000 Sarajevo Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian
France 	Finland 	Romania 	Hungary 	Ireland 	Slovakia 
248,429 sq miles 643,427 sq km 62,300,000 Paris French, Provençal, German, Breton, Catalan, Basque	130,559 sq miles 338,145 sq km 5,330,000 Helsinki Finnish, Swedish, Sami	92,043 sq miles 238,391 sq km 21,300,000 Bucharest Romanian, Hungarian (Magyar), Romany, German	35,918 sq miles 93,028 sq km 9,990,000 Budapest Hungarian (Magyar)	27,133 sq miles 70,273 sq km 4,520,000 Dublin English, Irish Gaelic	18,933 sq miles 49,035 sq km 5,410,000 Bratislava Slovak, Hungarian (Magyar), Czech
Ukraine 	Norway 	Belarus 	Portugal 	Lithuania 	Estonia 
233,032 sq miles 603,550 sq km 45,700,000 Kiev Ukrainian, Russian, Tatar	125,021 sq miles 323,802 sq km 4,810,000 Oslo Norwegian (<i>Bokmål</i> , "book language," and <i>Nynorsk</i> , "new Norsk"), Sami	180,155 sq miles 207,600 sq km 9,630,000 Minsk Belarussian, Russian	35,556 sq miles 92,090 sq km 10,700,000 Lisbon Portuguese	25,212 sq miles 65,300 sq km 3,290,000 Vilnius Lithuanian, Russian	17,463 sq miles 45,228 sq km 1,340,000 Tallinn Estonian, Russian
Spain 	Poland 	Greece 	Austria 	Latvia 	Denmark 
195,124 sq miles 505,370 sq km 44,900,000 Madrid Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque	120,728 sq miles 312,685 sq km 38,100,000 Warsaw Polish	50,949 sq miles 131,957 sq km 11,200,000 Athens Greek, Turkish, Macedonian, Albanian	32,383 sq miles 83,871 sq km 8,360,000 Vienna German, Croatian, Slovenian, Hungarian (Magyar)	24,938 sq miles 64,589 sq km 2,250,000 Riga Latvian, Russian	16,639 sq miles 43,094 sq km 5,470,000 Copenhagen Danish
Sweden 	Italy 	Bulgaria 	Czech Republic 	Croatia 	Netherlands 
173,860 sq miles 450,295 sq km 9,250,000 Stockholm Swedish, Finnish, Sami	116,348 sq miles 301,340 sq km 59,900,000 Rome Italian, German, French, Rhaeto-Romanic, Sardinian	42,811 sq miles 110,879 sq km 7,540,000 Sofia Bulgarian, Turkish, Romany	30,451 sq miles 78,867 sq km 10,400,000 Prague Czech, Slovak, Hungarian (Magyar)	21,851 sq miles 56,594 sq km 4,420,000 Zagreb Croatian	16,040 sq miles 41,543 sq km 16,600,000 Amsterdam Dutch, Frisian

Switzerland		Slovenia									
15,937 sq miles 41,277 sq km		7,827 sq miles 20,273 sq km									
7,570,000		2,020,000									
Bern		Ljubljana									
German, Swiss-German, French, Italian, Romansh		Slovenian									
Moldova		Montenegro									
13,070 sq miles 33,851 sq km		5,333 sq miles 13,812 sq km									
3,600,000		624,200									
Chisinau		Podgorica									
Moldovan, Ukrainian, Russian		Montenegrin, Serbian, Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian									
Belgium		The cathedral dome of Santa Maria del Fiore dominates the skyline of Florence, Italy—one of the world's most beautiful cities.									
11,787 sq miles 30,528 sq km											
10,600,000											
Brussels											
Dutch, French, German											
Albania		Kosovo		Luxembourg		Malta		San Marino		Vatican City	
11,100 sq miles 28,748 sq km		4,203 sq miles 10,887 sq km		998 sq miles 2,586 sq km		122 sq miles 316 sq km		24 sq miles 61 sq km		0.17 sq miles 0.44 sq km	
3,160,000		2,100,000		486,200		408,700		31,400		800	
Tirana		Pristina		Luxembourg		Valletta		San Marino		Vatican City	
Albanian, Greek		Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Gorani, Romany, Turkish		Luxembourgish, German, French		Maltese, English		Italian		Italian, Latin	
Macedonia		Cyprus		Andorra		Liechtenstein		Monaco			
9,928 sq miles 25,713 sq km		3,572 sq miles 9,251 sq km		181 sq miles 468 sq km		62 sq miles 160 sq km		0.77 sq miles 2 sq km			
2,040,000		871,000		82,200		35,000		32,000			
Skopje		Nicosia		Andorra la Vella		Vaduz		Monaco			
Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Romany, Serbian		Greek, Turkish		Spanish, Catalan, French, Portuguese		German, Alemannisch dialect, Italian		French, Italian, Monégasque, English			

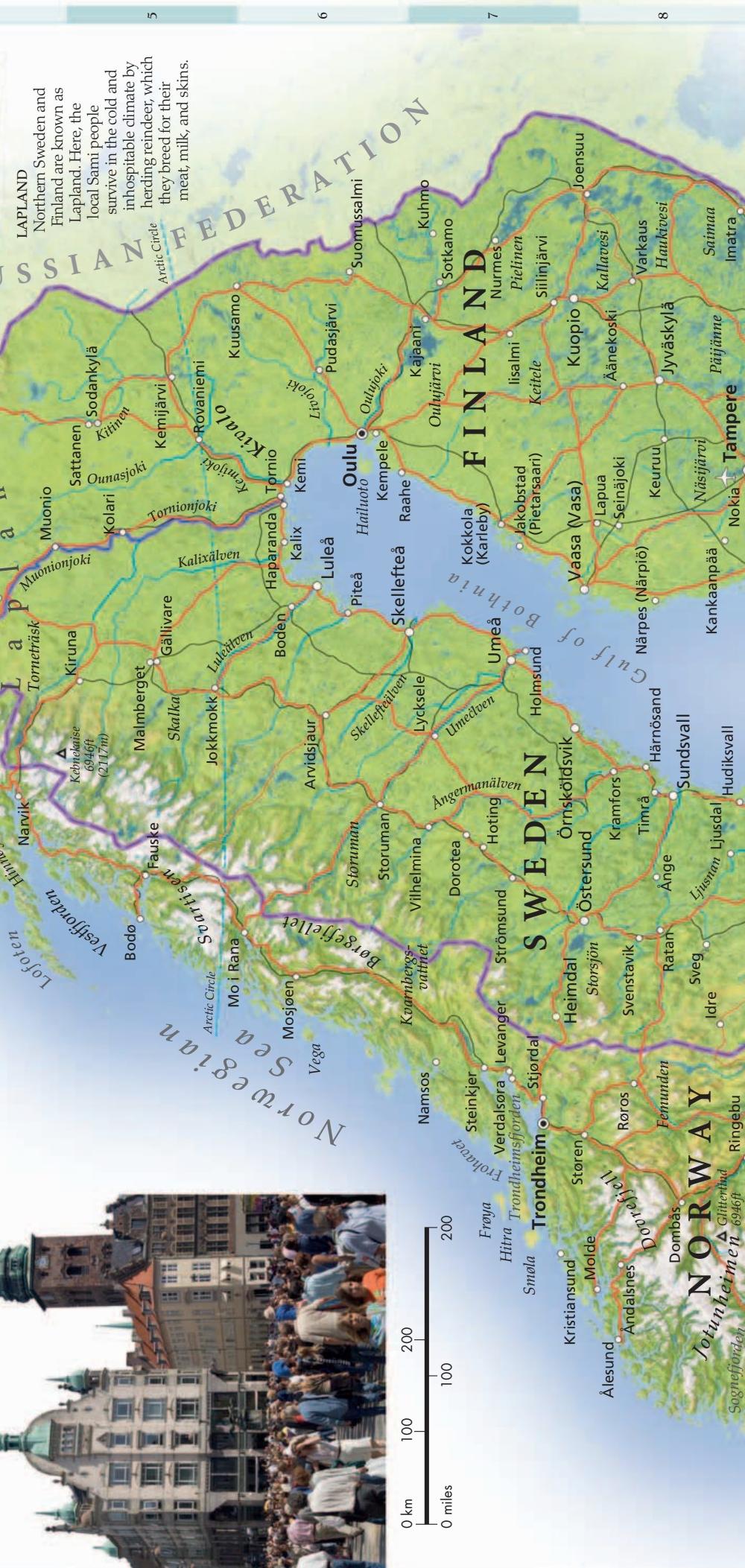
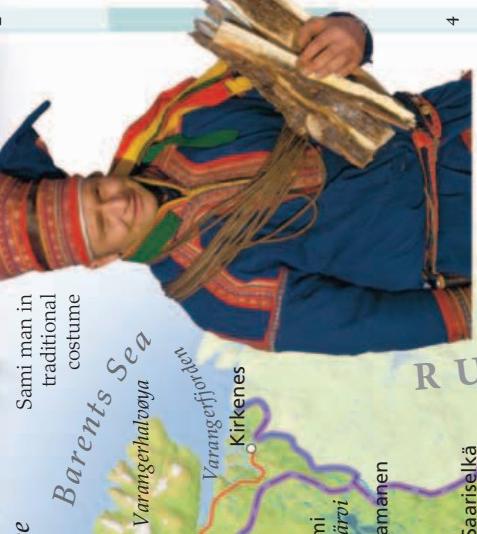
Scandinavia and Finland

THREE SCANDINAVIAN countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, along with neighboring Finland, are among the most northerly countries in Europe. Here the winters are long and cold. In the far north above the Arctic Circle, the Sun remains below the horizon for up to two months each year. Perhaps because of its harsh climate and the geographical isolation, Scandinavia has attracted little immigration, so the population is not very ethnically diverse. Finland is the most densely forested country in Europe, and wood accounts for 30 percent of its exports. All four countries are highly industrialized and are among the wealthiest in the world.

SKIING
During the winter months, most of Scandinavia is covered in snow, so skiing is one of the easiest forms of transportation. It is also a very popular sport.

URBAN POPULATIONS

Scandinavia has a high urban population. Many people live in towns and cities, with less than one fifth living in the countryside. Since the region is covered in lakes, fjords, and surrounded by seas, many people also live near the water.



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SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT
The people of Scandinavia are very environmentally conscious and recycle as many household items as they can. Strict national laws protect the environment from industrial waste and pollution, although there is growing concern about the levels of pollution in the Baltic Sea.

DING WITH WOOD of Norway and Sweden—and two thirds of Finland—is covered by dense forests of birch, pine, spruce, and other trees. Finland has more than 16 times more forested land per person than the European average. Many people in the region work in forestry, producing wood for the construction and furniture industries. This great natural resource is also used to build homes and churches, such as this medieval stave church (left) in Norway.



INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH Manufacturing is an important source of employment and wealth throughout Scandinavia. Many of the goods produced, such as Sweden, electronic goods in Denmark (above), and cell phones in Finland, are exported all over the world. In Denmark, many people also work in agriculture, fish processing, and brewing.

The west coast of Norway has thousands of deep inlets—known as fjords—gouged out of the mountains by glaciers during the last ice age and then flooded by the sea. The fjords run inland between high mountains and make favorite destinations for cruise ships bringing tourists to admire the stunning scenery.



THE SAUNA
The sauna, or steam bath, was invented in Finland about 1,000 years ago as a way of cleaning and relaxing the body. After a hot sauna, many Finns cool off by plunging into an icy pool (below) or a snowdrift.

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for cruise ships bringing tourists.

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The Low Countries

THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND LUXEMBOURG are known as the Low Countries because the land is so flat and lowlying. In the case of the Netherlands, most of the land is below sea level—*Netherlands* is Dutch for “under lands.” The three countries are among the richest in Europe, and while farming still plays an important part, they all have strong modern economies based on manufacturing and trade. Luxembourg in particular is known as a tax haven and is a major center for international finance. Their location at the mouth of the Rhine River and other major European rivers places the three countries at the heart of western European trade and politics—all three were founding members of the European Economic Community (now the European Union, or EU), established in 1957.



ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Every year, more than 30,000 ocean-going ships and 110,000 barges call at the port of Rotterdam. Lying at the mouth of the Rhine River, this port is the largest in the world and is where huge container ships from all over the world load or unload their cargoes. The smaller barges help transport goods farther inland. With the port's ultra-modern Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), it's possible to track ships on a radar screen up to 37 miles (60 km) off the coast and 25 miles (40 km) inland.

Tulips were introduced to the Netherlands from Turkey in 1562. Black tulips were the most valuable.

RECLAIMING THE LAND

Over the centuries, the Dutch have reclaimed land from the sea. They did this by building huge dykes, or dams, to keep out the sea and then draining the surface water into canals. Windmills originally pumped out the water, but electric pumps are now used.

DUTCH PEOPLE

The Dutch once ruled a vast empire in Indonesia, the Caribbean, and South America. As a result, many nationalities now live here. Ethnic minorities make up about 20 percent of the population and in some cities, the majority of elementary schoolchildren have a non-Dutch background.

CROPS

Fertile soil and good irrigation have helped the Netherlands become a major exporter of agricultural products, with vegetables and tomatoes forming important crops. It is also famous for its bulbs and cut flowers, notably tulips.

MAP OF THE NETHERLANDS

A detailed map of the Netherlands showing major cities, towns, and geographical features. Key locations labeled include:

- 1. IJsselmeer
- 2. Friesland
- 3. Wadden Sea
- 4. Texel
- 5. Schiermonnikoog
- 6. Ameland
- 7. Terschelling
- 8. Vlieland
- 9. Dokkum
- 10. Menaldum
- 11. Leeuwarden
- 12. Winsum
- 13. Zuidhorn
- 14. Haren
- 15. Delfzijl
- 16. Appingedam
- 17. Groningen
- 18. Haren
- 19. Zuidlaren
- 20. Vlagtwedde
- 21. Borger
- 22. Beilen
- 23. Steenwijk
- 24. Hoogeveen
- 25. Coevorden
- 26. Hardenberg
- 27. Den Ham
- 28. Tubbergen
- 29. Almelo
- 30. Denekamp
- 31. Hengelo
- 32. Enschede
- 33. Haaksbergen
- 34. Eibergen
- 35. Dieren
- 36. Apeldoorn
- 37. Zeewolde
- 38. Vaassen
- 39. Amstelveen
- 40. Baarn
- 41. Hilversum
- 42. Sassenheim
- 43. Leiden
- 44. Zoetermeer
- 45. Utrecht
- 46. Amersfoort
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- 49. Rotterdam
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- 55. Zaandstad
- 56. Flevoland
- 57. Almere
- 58. Den Helder
- 59. Schagen
- 60. Opmeer
- 61. Emmeloord
- 62. Hoorn
- 63. Lelystad
- 64. Purmerend
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- 768. Hilversum
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- 774. Zeist
- 775. Dordrecht
- 776. Rotterdam
- 777. Alkmaar
- 778. Castricum
- 779. Velsen-Noord
- 780. Haarlem
- 781. Purmerend
- 782. Zaandstad
- 783. Flevoland
- 784. Almere
- 785. Den Helder
- 786. Schagen
- 787. Opmeer
- 788. Lelystad
- 789. Purmerend
- 790. Zaanstad
- 791. Amstelveen
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- 793. Hilversum
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- 797. Utrecht
- 798. Amersfoort
- 799. Zeist
- 800. Dordrecht
- 801. Rotterdam
- 802. Alkmaar
- 803. Castricum
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France

IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO ITS mostly rural landscape, France is a modern nation, with most people now living in towns and cities. It has flourishing industries and is the fifth-richest economy in the world after the U.S.A., Japan, Germany, and the U.K.

A country of varied scenery, from gently rolling farmland in the north to a stretch of dry, warm Mediterranean coast in the south, France also shares two mountain ranges—the Pyrenees and the Alps. Each of the 22 regions within France, which includes the island of Corsica, has its own distinct identity and culture. The tiny countries of Andorra and Monaco lie next to France.

Boules, the national game of France, is still played in village squares around the country.



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NUCLEAR POWER
Three fourths of France's electricity is produced by nuclear power plants (above), making the country largely self-sufficient in energy and one of the main producers of nuclear power in Europe. Hydroelectric plants are also an important source of power.



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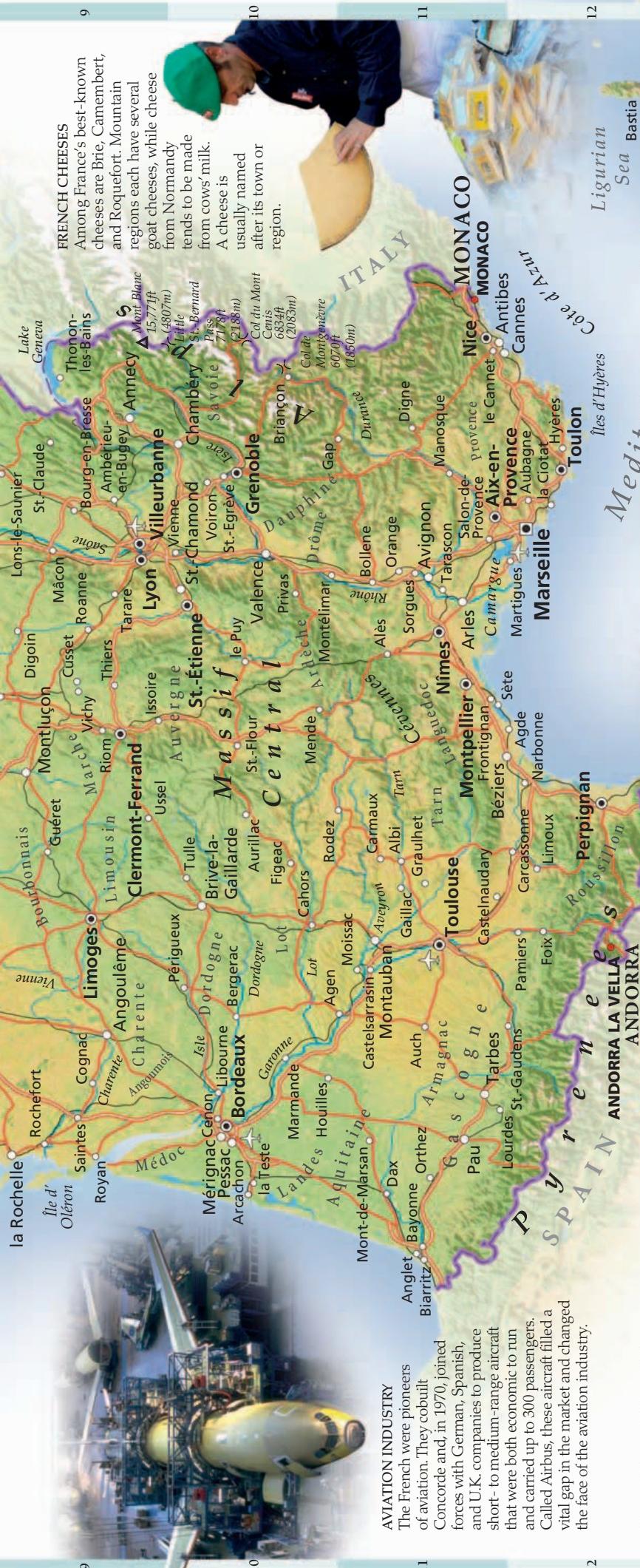
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Germany and the Alpine States

LYING AT THE HEART OF EUROPE, Germany is one of the world's wealthiest nations. It is also Europe's leading industrial power. To its south lie the Alpine states of Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Slovenia. The region is famed for its beautiful Alpine scenery, mountains, and lakes. German is the main language in all but Slovenia. However, each of the five countries has its own distinct history, culture, and national identity. In fact, since 1815, Switzerland has been recognized as a neutral nation and has stayed out of all of the wars that have affected Europe.

THE JOY OF UNIFICATION
After World War II, Germany was divided, with a US-backed capitalist state in the west and a Russian-backed state in the east. Built in 1961, the Berlin Wall was 96 miles (155 km) long and was designed to stop East Germans from leaving for a better life in the West. The wall divided Berlin and separated families, friends, and a nation for 28 years. When Germany was unified (reunited) in 1990, the wall was demolished.

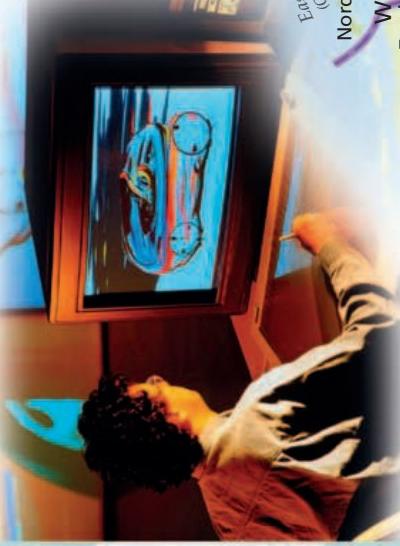


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A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white and black horizontally striped long-sleeved shirt, is leaning forward and reaching upwards with his right arm towards a television screen. The TV is mounted on a dark wooden cabinet and displays a blue-toned abstract graphic of a face or mask with prominent features. The background is a warm, slightly blurred indoor setting.

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white and black striped long-sleeved shirt, is leaning forward and reaching upwards with his right arm towards a television screen. The TV is mounted on a wooden cabinet and displays a large, abstract graphic of a face or mask in blue and red colors. The background is a warm-toned room.

GERMAN INDUSTRY
With its coal and iron mines, the Ruhr Valley was once the powerhouse of the German economy. Today's industry ranges from engineering to high-tech goods. Quality assembly and design make Germany the third-largest car producer in the world.



GERMAN INDUSTRY

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FOOD AND DRINK
The annual Munich *Oktoberfest* is Germany's biggest beer festival. Entertainment includes
parades and music.

The image is a collage of three distinct vertical panels. The top panel shows a vibrant purple sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a small boat visible on the right. The middle panel shows a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The bottom panel is a map of the coastline from the Sea of Gdansk to the Baltic Sea, featuring labels for Sassnitz, Rügen, Pomerania, Bay Greifswald, Wolgast, Anklam, Oderhaff, Neubrandenburg, Pasewalk, and Neustrelitz.



The Swiss speak German, French, Italian and Romansh.



The image features a detailed map of Central Europe, including Germany, Poland, and parts of France, Italy, and Belgium. Major cities like Berlin, Warsaw, Paris, and Rome are marked. A prominent circular inset in the upper right corner shows a vibrant street scene in Geneva, Switzerland, with people walking and buildings in the background. The map uses green for land and blue for water bodies, with rivers like the Rhine, Elbe, and Oder clearly visible.

A photograph showing a group of musicians, possibly a brass band, performing outdoors. They are wearing dark uniforms and hats, and are playing large brass instruments, likely tubas or similar brass horns. The scene is set against a bright, possibly overexposed background, suggesting a sunny day.

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Spain and Portugal

THE COUNTRIES OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL share an area of land called the Iberian Peninsula. In the north, this land is cut off from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees Mountains, while to the south, it is separated from Africa by the Strait of Gibraltar. The region was once ruled by Islamic people from north Africa known as Moors. Evidence of their occupation can still be seen in buildings in the cities of Andalucía. The Moors were eventually defeated in 1492, and for a while, Portugal came under Spanish control, as did most of Europe. During the 1900s, both countries

were ruled by brutal dictatorships that were overthrown in the 1970s. They are now modern democracies.



HARVESTING CORK

Cork is made from the outer bark of the evergreen cork oak tree. The bark is carefully stripped off, flattened, laid out in sheets, and then left to dry. Cork is used for many products, such as stoppers for wine bottles, mats, and tiles. Portugal is the world's leading exporter of cork.

LISBON
Portugal's capital city is Lisbon, which is situated at the mouth of the Tagus River on a series of steep hills and valleys. In 1755, two thirds of the city was completely destroyed by an earthquake and tidal wave but was rebuilt with beautiful squares and public buildings. Many explorers have set sail from Lisbon in their quest to find new lands.



Trams are a feature of Lisbon streets and a popular form of transportation for both locals and tourists.



FISHING

Spain and Portugal have well-developed fishing industries, with large-scale fleets and many smaller local fleets. However, overfishing along Portugal's coast and in the north Atlantic has put many people's livelihoods at risk. A huge oil spill off the coast of Galicia in 2002 also affected fish stocks, but the Portuguese government and thousands of volunteers restored beaches to their former beauty.

Spanish families tend to eat dinner late, at around 9 PM. So after school, children eat a snack called a merienda.



Italy

THE BOOT-SHAPED COUNTRY of Italy stretches from the mountainous north down to the Mediterranean Sea. For most of its history, Italy consisted of city-states—such as Florence and Venice—and was united only in 1870. Regional differences in Italy are huge, as each region has its own cuisine, customs, and dialect and is geographically quite distinct. As a result, many Italians identify themselves first by region and then by country. The largest division, however, is between the rich north and the poorer south—a rugged region with several active volcanoes and the occasional severe earthquake. The mainland of Italy includes two tiny independent states—San Marino and Vatican City.

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HOME OF OPERA
The idea of setting drama to music originated in Italy during the 1500s. Since then, Italian composers, such as Rossini, Verdi, and Puccini, have made opera the most popular musical form in Italy. Many cities have their own opera houses.

CITY OF CANALS
The beautiful city of Venice is made up of 118 islands, 177 canals, and 400 bridges. The only way to get around is to walk or take a boat: a *vaporetto*, or *motonave*. The most distinctive boat, however, is the gondola. Each year, in the days before Ash Wednesday, Venice hosts a carnival when the city celebrates with fireworks and everyone wears spectacular masks.



Andrea Bocelli



Carnival masks

Vatican City has a permanent population of only about 800 people, although more than 3,000 come to work in the city-state each day.



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Sardinia (Sardegna)



VATICAN CITY (ROMA)



Rome



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OLIVE HARVEST

Italy is a big producer of olive oil, producing around 3.6 million tonnes, which is second only to Spain in Europe. The oil is produced by first pressing the fruit of the olive tree between steel or stone rollers and then squeezing oil from the pulp using a press. Olive trees flourish in the fertile soil and the mild, frost-free climate of southern Italy.

VATICAN CITY

This tiny state in Rome is the center of the Roman Catholic Church and home to the Pope. As well as St. Peter's Basilica and the surrounding buildings and gardens, the Vatican boasts Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. The state has its own flag, postage stamps, and coins.

PALERMO

The capital of Sicily, Palermo is a major port and the center of Sicilian culture. It is built on a hillside overlooking the sea and has a mix of architectural styles from different eras. The city is known for its delicious seafood and vibrant atmosphere.

ISOLE EOLIE

A group of islands off the coast of Sicily, the Eolian Islands are known for their rugged beauty and clear blue waters. They are a popular destination for tourists who come to swim, sunbathe, and explore the ancient ruins of the island's past.

IONIAN

The Ionian Sea is located between the Italian Peninsula and the Balkan Peninsula. It is known for its crystal-clear waters and beautiful beaches. The sea is home to many small islands, including Corfu, Cephalonia, and Ithaca.

SE A

The Adriatic Sea is located between the Italian Peninsula and the Balkan Peninsula. It is known for its deep blue waters and rocky coastline. The sea is home to many small islands, including Sicily, Sardinia, and the Aeolian Islands.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The Mediterranean Sea is located between the Italian Peninsula and North Africa. It is known for its warm, clear waters and sandy beaches. The sea is home to many large cities, including Rome, Naples, and Athens.



Swiss guards, in their red, yellow, and blue striped costumes, stand at the gates of Vatican City.

RENAISSANCE ITALY

Florence (below) sits on both sides of the Arno River. During the 1400s, a new movement in art and architecture—known as the Renaissance, or rebirth—began in Italy. Painters and sculptors, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, created beautiful works of art using improved techniques of perspective and realism. Many of these can still be seen in the galleries and churches of Florence.



HOME LIFE Family life is important in Italy, and most people live at home until they get married. This is partly owing to the lack of cheap housing. Lunch (*pranzo*) is often the main meal of the day.



MALTA

VALLETTA

Malta





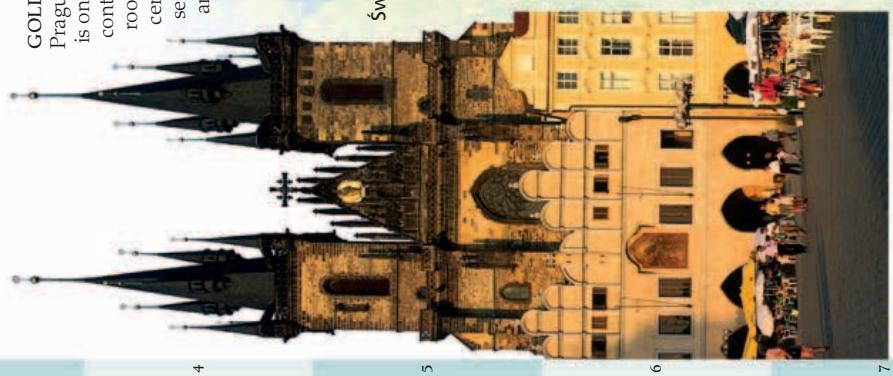
Central Europe

FOUR COUNTRIES LIE at the heart of central Europe—Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. The region is typically composed of wide plains broken up by gentle hills and the Carpathian mountain range in the south.

In the late 1980s, these countries broke away from years of communist rule. The new democratic governments were faced with the problems of trying to modernize their nations. These changes are ongoing, but in some of the countries, such as the Czech Republic, there are signs of improvement and a rise in living standards.

GOLDEN PRAGUE

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is one of Europe's most beautiful cities. It contains many old buildings with golden roofs and grand squares. Unlike other central European cities, Prague escaped serious damage during both world wars, and thus retains a lot of its charm.



FAMILY FARMS
Poland has one of the largest agricultural sectors in Europe, with more than one fourth of the work force employed in farming. Most farms are still small, family-run businesses, growing grains, beets, and potatoes. Large numbers of pigs and other animals are also raised.

TRADITIONAL TRADES
The countries of central Europe, except Slovakia, are heavily industrialized. Huge coal mines, steelworks (above), and engineering works dominate the urban landscape. Although some of these sites are old and poorly equipped, these countries are trying to update the machinery and introduce measures to improve standards of environmental pollution.



RELIGION
The Roman Catholic Church is very strong throughout central Europe. Attending mass on Sunday and observing religious holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, are important features of family life.





Budapest was once two cities—Buda on the right bank of the Danube Ríter and Pest on the left bank.

INDUSTRIAL LIFE

The Czech Republic is central Europe's most industrialized country. It is renowned for its centuries-old glass industry.

The region also produces some of the world's best-known beers. Pilsner beer, for example, originated in the town of Plzen, while Budweiser beer has been brewed in České Budějovice for more than 100 years.



FOLK CULTURE
Traditional folk culture is still preserved in Slovakia and is seen as an essential part of regional identity. Throughout the year, especially during the summer months, folk festivals are held in many towns. The people dress up in their colorful regional folk costumes, play traditional instruments, and sing and dance.

LANDSCAPE OF SLOVAKIA
Slovakia is divided between a fertile, lowland south and a more rugged, mountainous north. The country is much more rural than its industrial neighbor, the Czech Republic. Most Slovaks live in small towns and mountain villages. The Tatras Mountains in the north are popular with skiers and hikers, who bring in much-needed tourist income.



HOT SPRINGS

A land of fertile plains, Hungary is also famous for its numerous hot springs. In the capital city of Budapest, there are more than 100 hot springs. The warm waters rise naturally from the ground, and spas and baths are centered on these springs. They are as popular today as they were centuries ago, when the Romans used the hot springs on the Buda side of the city.

Széchenyi baths has the hottest spa water in Budapest.



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Southeast Europe

UNTIL 1991, CROATIA, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia were all part of Yugoslavia.

Ethnic tensions between the Serbs and other peoples in Yugoslavia caused a series of bloody wars that broke up the country. Peace was eventually restored in 1999, but all five countries have suffered from intense economic problems as a result. So, too, has Albania ever since its communist government collapsed. The six nations do, however, have huge potential, with considerable agricultural and mineral resources. In the north, the Danube River is an important trade route for both Croatia and Serbia, while Croatia has a flourishing tourist industry along its beautiful Adriatic coast.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Croatia is a great sports nation. Skier Janica Kostelic is not only Croatia's first triple Olympic champion, but she is also the most successful female Alpine skier of all time, winning three gold medals at the 2002 Winter Olympics and another gold and silver medal in 2006.

The Dalmatian dog is named after the coastal region of Dalmatia, its first known home.

THE ADRIATIC
The long Adriatic coastline of Croatia is one of the most beautiful in Europe. The wooded hillsides, pretty beaches, such as Makarska (right), islands, and historic towns once attracted tourists from all over Europe. Now that the country is no longer involved in the war, tourists are returning, contributing vital income to the national economy.

GROWING FOOD
The most fertile area in this region lies along the Danube River in northern Serbia and eastern Croatia. Here, vegetables, fruit, corn, and cereals are grown, as well as grapes for winemaking. Most farms are small-scale family businesses that grow a wide range of crops.



Family-run allotments

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DIFFERENT SCRIPTS
The Croatian and Serbian languages are very similar, but the people of Croatia, a predominantly Roman Catholic country, write in Roman script, as do Bosnians. Serbians are mostly Eastern Orthodox and write using both Roman and Russian Cyrillic scripts.



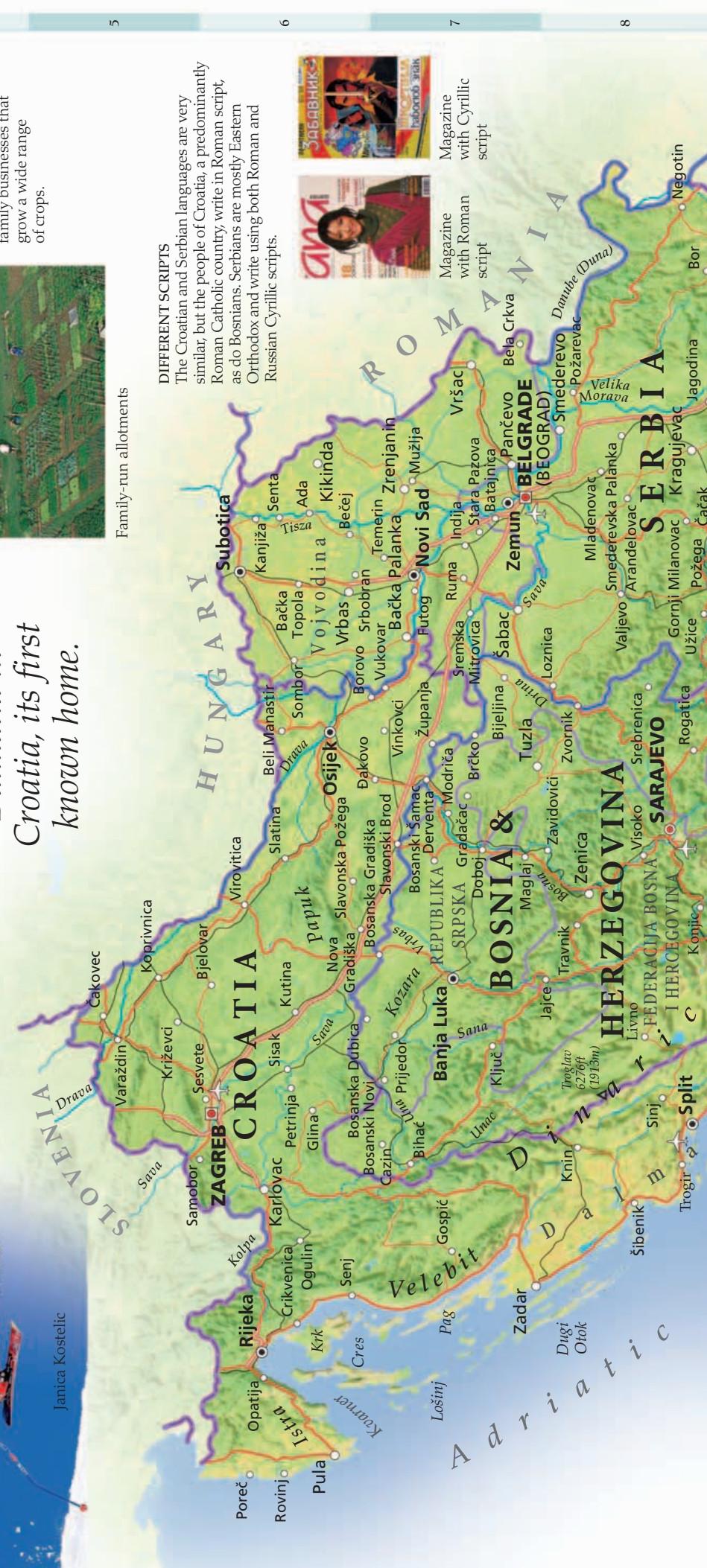
Magazine with Cyrillic script

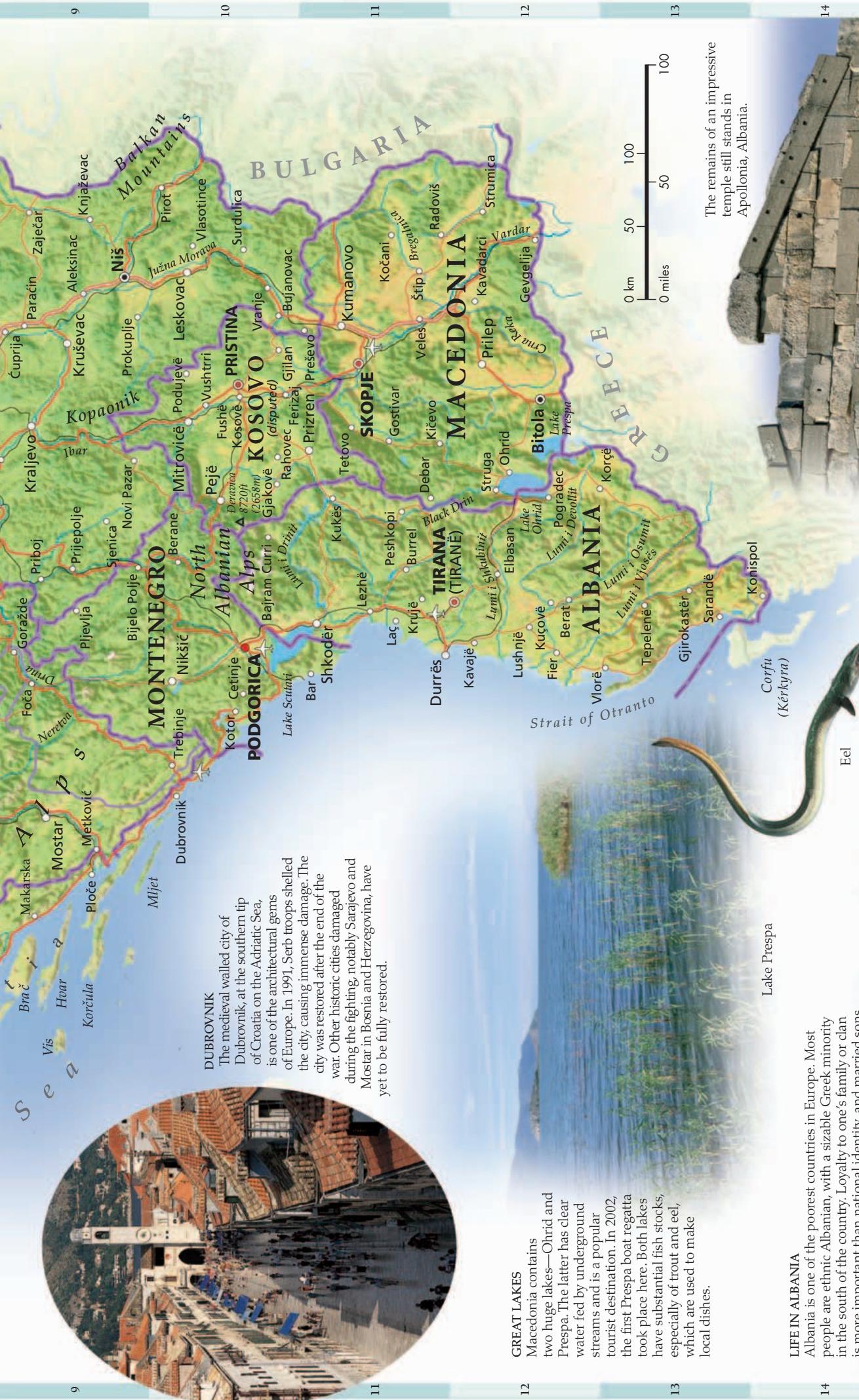


Magazine with Roman script



Magazine with Cyrillic script





Bulgaria and Greece

FOR MORE THAN 400 YEARS, Bulgaria and Greece were ruled by the Ottoman Turks. Bulgaria gained independence in 1908, while southern Greece became independent in 1832 and was joined by northern Greece in 1913. After World War II, Bulgaria became a communist state. Both states are now democracies and members of the European Union (EU). Bulgaria remains relatively poor while in 2010, it emerged that Greece had a huge national deficit owing to spending more than it had been collecting in taxes. The EU lent Greece 112 billion euros (146.6 billion dollars) to restore its economy. Although they border each other,

Bulgaria and Greece are quite different; the Greek mainland is mountainous, with only one third of the land suitable for cultivation. By contrast, Bulgaria is more fertile, with a strong agricultural tradition.

Tourism is an important source of income to both countries, with visitors flocking to the Black Sea resorts in Bulgaria, to the Greek mainland to see the ancient ruins, and to the Greek islands in search of sandy beaches.

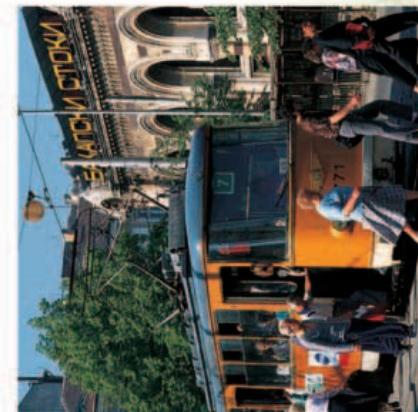
*First held in Athens
in 1896, the modern
Olympic Games
were staged there
again in 2004.*



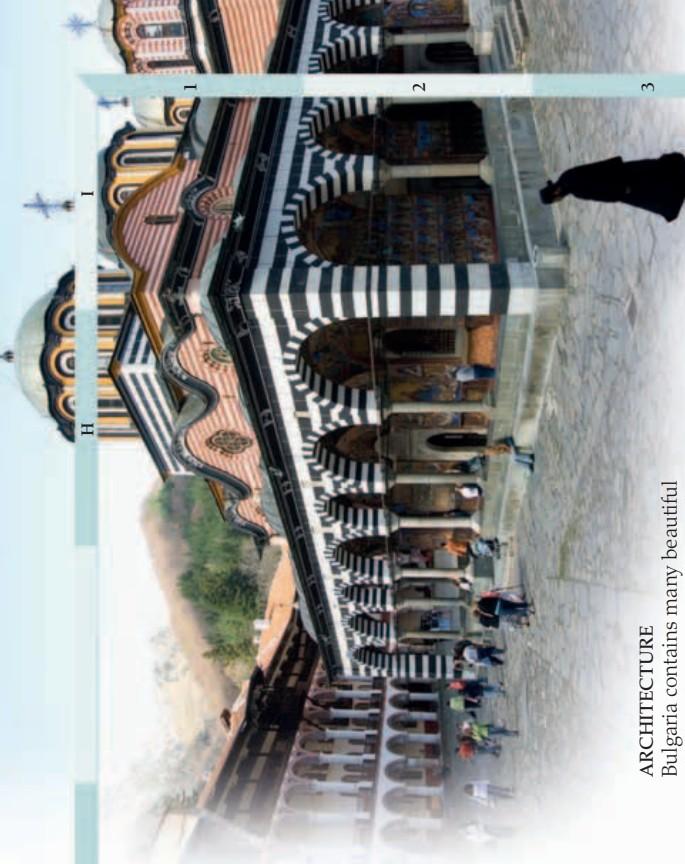
BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE

Wheat, corn, and other cereals grow in the fertile Danube River valley in the north of the country. Tobacco (right) grows in the Maritsa River valley in the southeast, while grapes for the wine industry flourish on the slopes of the Balkan Mountains. The festival of Kukerov Den, with traditional processions, celebrates the start of the agricultural year.

CITY LIFE
Bulgarians make up about 85 percent of the total population of the country. The rest are Turkish, Macedonian, or Roma. Most people live in apartment buildings in the main towns and cities. They are more likely to use public transportation as not all households have a car.



Trams provide an efficient way for people to get around the city of Sofia.



ARCHITECTURE
Bulgaria contains many beautiful old churches, monasteries, and mosques, despite the damage done to the country during World War II. Rila Monastery (above) was founded by a hermit monk who took to the mountains in search of solitude in 927 CE. After a fire in 1833, Rila was rebuilt, and the magnificent church now boasts three fine domes, a museum, and 1,200 frescoes.

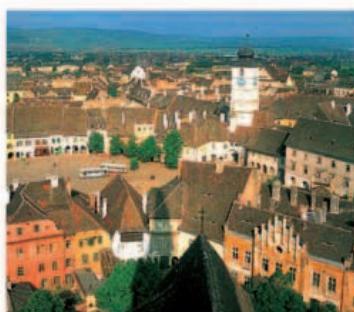


LANGUAGE
The 24 characters in the Greek alphabet date from the 700s BCE, when the first texts were written in classical Greek. Since then the language has evolved and is now spoken by 11 million people around the world.



Ukraine, Moldova, & Romania

THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE PAST CENTURY, Ukraine and Moldova formed part of the Soviet Union, while Romania was ruled for 20 years by the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1989, Ceausescu was overthrown, while Ukraine and Moldova became independent in 1991. Today, the three countries are struggling to come to terms with their communist inheritance and transform themselves into modern democracies. All three lack modern technology and face serious economic and environmental problems arising from outdated industry. They also face increasing ethnic tensions with their minority populations—Hungarians in Romania, as well as Russians left behind in Ukraine and Moldova after the collapse of the Soviet Union.



CITY LIFE

Romania has many cities and towns, with a mix of old and new buildings. Sibiu (left) was founded in the 1100s and, at one time, had 19 guilds—each representing a different craft—within its city walls. Most remains from this colorful history, especially in the painted buildings of the old town.

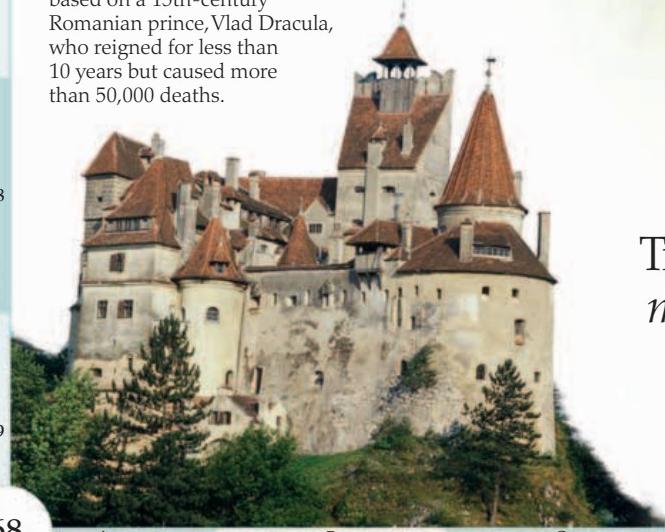


FOLK CUSTOMS

Despite years of communist rule, folk customs thrived in the rural areas of Romania and Ukraine. In Ukraine, singers perform *dumas*, historical epics that tell of slavery under the Turks. One of the traditional instruments is a bandura (left), a stringed instrument that sounds like a harpsichord.

DRACULA'S CASTLE

Situated in Transylvania, Bran Castle is a favourite tourist destination. This is where author Bram Stoker's fictional blood-drinking Count Dracula lived. The story is probably based on a 15th-century Romanian prince, Vlad Dracula, who reigned for less than 10 years but caused more than 50,000 deaths.

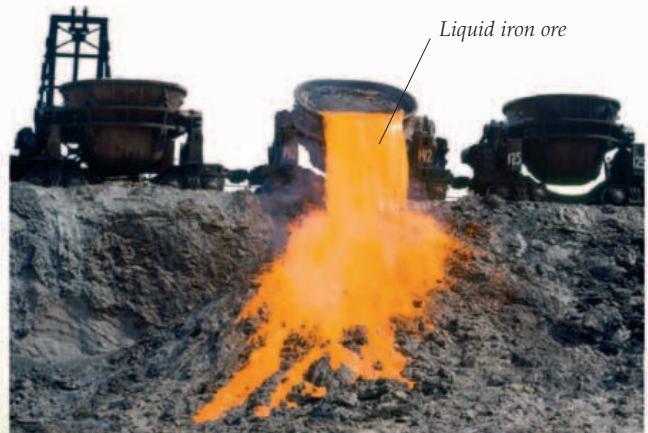


The word Transylvania means “land beyond the forests.”

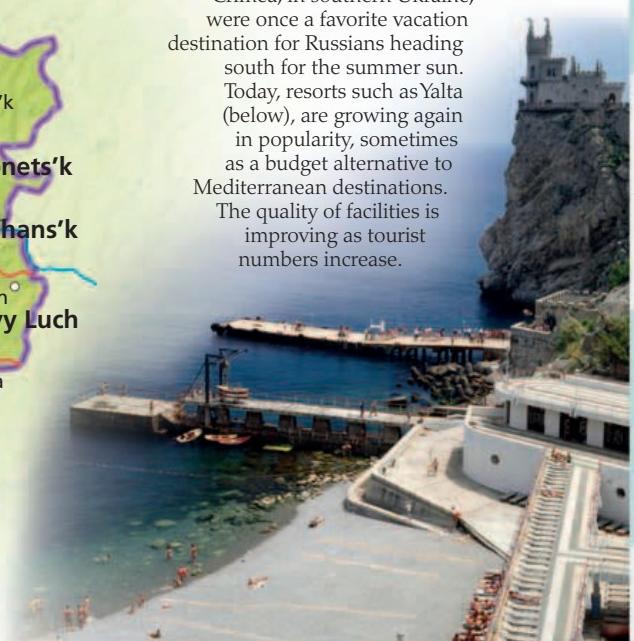
EASTER BREAD

In Romania, Easter is celebrated with a meal of roast lamb served with a bread called *cozonac*. This is made by pounding nuts, raisins, and even cocoa into the dough.

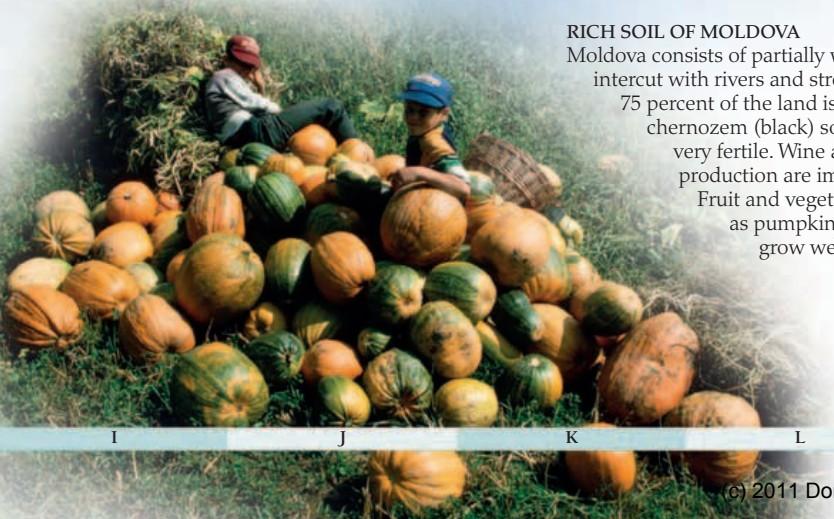




VACATIONS BY THE SEA
The Black Sea resorts of the Crimea, in southern Ukraine, were once a favorite vacation destination for Russians heading south for the summer sun. Today, resorts such as Yalta (below), are growing again in popularity, sometimes as a budget alternative to Mediterranean destinations. The quality of facilities is improving as tourist numbers increase.



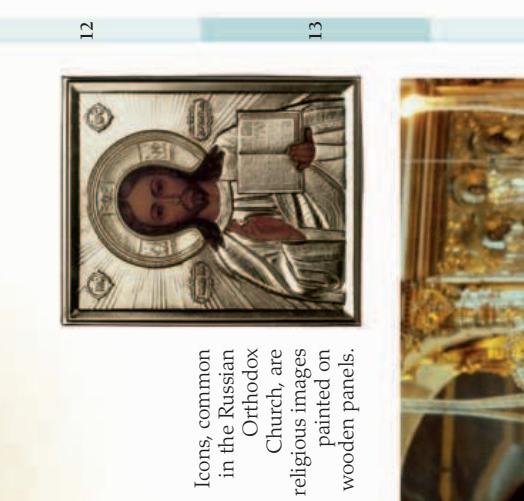
PEOPLE OF ROMANIA
Romanians speak Romanian—a language closely related to French, Italian, and Spanish. The country also has sizable Hungarian and Roma minorities, which have both been discriminated against in recent years. Most Hungarian speakers live in the region of Romania known as Transylvania.





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Industrial smog casts a haze over Moscow.
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RURAL LIFE
Rural life has become extremely tough since the economic collapse of large-scale farms in the 1990s, with many people living in poverty. Smaller cooperatives and farms (above) have sprung up, and the agricultural industry is going through a painful period of reform. Due to the harsh climate, only 10 percent of the land is suitable for agriculture.



The title czar, once used for Russian rulers, means "emperor" and comes from the ancient Roman title "Caesar."

THE TATARS
Russia's largest ethnic minority, the Tatars (below) are an Islamic people descended from the Mongols. Their largest population lives in the Tatarstan Republic, halfway between Moscow and the Urals.



MOSCOW SUBWAY
Not many underground trains can claim to be tourist attractions, but Moscow's subway can. Built in the 1930s, many of its stations are decorated with beautiful chandeliers, mosaics, paintings, and sculptures. One of the busiest, most efficient subway systems in the world, it is used by more than 7 million people daily.



ASIA

The vast continent of Asia is dominated by two giant nations—China and India each with more than one billion people and a rich and colorful history. Both are being transformed by rapid economic growth, and so are many other Asian countries, listed below in order of size. Yet in some regions of central Asia, life has barely changed in thousands of years.

China	Iran	Afghanistan	Iraq	Philippines	Nepal
3,705,387 sq miles 9,596,961 sq km 1,350,000,000 Beijing Mandarin, Wu, Cantonese, Hsiang, Min, Hakka, Kan	636,368 sq miles 1,648,195 sq km 74,200,000 Tehran Farsi, Azeri, Luri, Gilaki, Mazandarani, Kurdish, Turkmen, Arabic, Balochi	251,826 sq miles 652,230 sq km 28,100,000 Kabul Pashto, Tajik, Dari, Farsi, Uzbek, Turkmen	169,234 sq miles 438,317 sq km 30,700,000 Baghdad Arabic, Kurdish, Turkic languages, Armenian, Assyrian	115,830 sq miles 300,000 sq km 92,000,000 Manila Filipino, English, Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon, many other local languages	56,827 sq miles 147,181 sq km 29,300,000 Kathmandu Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri
India	Mongolia	Yemen	Japan	Laos	Bangladesh
1,269,212 sq miles 3,287,263 sq km 1,200,000,000 New Delhi Hindi, English, Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Bihari, Gujarati, Kannada.	603,905 sq miles 1,564,116 sq km 2,670,000 Ulan Bator Khalkha Mongolian, Kazakh, Chinese, Russian	203,848 sq miles 527,968 sq km 23,600,000 Sanaak Arabic	145,913 sq miles 377,915 sq km 127,000,000 Tokyo Japanese, Korean, Chinese	91,428 sq miles 236,800 sq km 6,320,000 Vientiane Lao, Mon-Khmer, Yao, Vietnamese, Chinese, French	55,598 sq miles 143,998 sq km 162,000,000 Dhaka Bengali, Urdu, Chakma, Marma (Magh), Garo, Khasi, Santhali, Tripura, Mru
Kazakhstan	Pakistan	Thailand	Vietnam	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
1,052,084 sq miles 2,724,900 sq km 15,600,000 Astana Kazakh, Russian, Ukrainian, German, Uzbek, Tatar, Uyghur	307,372 sq miles 796,095 sq km 181,000,000 Islamabad Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtu, Urdu, Balochi, Brahui	198,116 sq miles 513,120 sq km 67,800,000 Bangkok Thai, Chinese, Malay, Khmer, Mon, Karen, Miao	127,880 sq miles 331,210 sq km 88,100,000 Hanoi Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, Khmer, Muong, Nung, Miao, Yao, Jarai	77,201 sq miles 199,951 sq km 5,480,000 Bishkek Kyrgyz, Russian, Uzbek, Tatar, Ukrainian	55,251 sq miles 143,100 sq km 6,950,000 Dushanbe Tajik, Uzbek, Russian
Saudi Arabia	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Malaysia	Syria	North Korea
829,995 sq miles 2,149,690 sq km 25,700,000 Riyadh Arabic	302,533 sq miles 783,562 sq km 74,800,000 Ankara Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Circassian, Armenian, Greek, Georgian, Ladino (Judeo-Spanish)	188,455 sq miles 488,100 sq km 5,110,000 Ashgabat Turkmen, Uzbek, Russian, Kazakh, Tatar	127,354 sq miles 329,847 sq km 27,500,000 Kuala Lumpur Bahasa Malaysia, Malay, Chinese, Tamil, English	71,498 sq miles 185,180 sq km 21,900,000 Damascus Arabic, French, Kurdish, Armenian, Circassian, Turkic languages, Assyrian, Aramaic	46,540 sq miles 120,538 sq km 23,900,000 Pyongyang Korean
Indonesia	Myanmar (Burma)	Uzbekistan	Oman	Cambodia	South Korea
735,354 sq miles 1,904,569 sq km 230,000,000 Jakarta Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, Bahasa Indonesia, Dutch	261,227 sq miles 676,578 sq km 50,000,000 Nay Pyi Taw Burmese, Shan, Karen, Rakhine (Arakanese), Chin, Yangbye, Kachin, Mon	172,741 sq miles 447,400 sq km 27,500,000 Tashkent Uzbek, Russian, Tajik, Kazakh	119,498 sq miles 309,500 sq km 2,850,000 Muscat Arabic, Balochi, Farsi, Hindi, Punjabi	69,898 sq miles 181,035 sq km 14,800,000 Phnom Penh Khmer, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cham	38,502 sq miles 99,720 sq km 48,300,000 Seoul Korean

Jordan		Sri Lanka									
34,495 sq miles 89,342 sq km 6,320,000 Amman Arabic	25,332 sq miles 65,610 sq km 20,200,000 Colombo Sinhala, Tamil, Sinhala-Tamil, English										
Azerbaijan		Bhutan		Israel		Qatar					
33,436 sq miles 86,600 sq km 8,830,000 Baku Azerbaijani, Russian	14,824 sq miles 38,394 sq km 697,300 Thimphu Dzongkha, Nepali, Assamese	8,019 sq miles 20,770 sq km 7,170,000 Jerusalem Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, German, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Persian	4,473 sq miles 11,586 sq km 1,410,000 Doha Arabic								
United Arab Emirates		Taiwan		Kuwait		Lebanon		Bahrain		Seychelles	
32,278 sq miles 83,600 sq km 4,600,000 Abu Dhabi Arabic, Farsi, Indian and Pakistani languages, English	13,892 sq miles 35,980 sq km 23,000,000 Taipei Amoy Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Hakka Chinese	6,880 sq miles 17,818 sq km 2,990,000 Kuwait City Arabic, English	4,015 sq miles 10,400 sq km 4,220,000 Beirut Arabic, French, Armenian, Assyrian	286 sq miles 741 sq km 791,500 Manama Arabic							
Georgia		Armenia		East Timor		Brunei		Singapore		Maldives	
26,911 sq miles 69,700 sq km 4,260,000 Tbilisi Georgian, Russian, Azeri, Armenian, Mingrelian, Ossetian, Abkhazian	11,484 sq miles 29,743 sq km 3,080,000 Yerevan Armenian, Azeri, Russian	5,743 sq miles 14,874 sq km 1,130,000 Dili Tetum (Portuguese/Austronesian), Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese	2,226 sq miles 5,765 sq km 399,700 Bandar Seri Begawan Malay, English, Chinese	269 sq miles 697 sq km 4,740,000 Singapore Mandarin, Malay, Tamil, English							



Turkey and the Caucasus

TURKEY LIES IN BOTH ASIA and Europe—separated by the Bosphorus—and was once part of the powerful Ottoman Empire. Although Turks are 99 percent Muslim, modern Turkey is a country with no official religion. Western Turkey is relatively industrialized, with a tourist industry along the Mediterranean coast that brings in considerable income. Many farmers and herders in the center and east, however, struggle to make a living in the arid environment.

To the northeast lie the Caucasus countries of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. Once part of the U.S.S.R., they are now independent.



TURKISH FOOD

Turkey is self-sufficient in food, and grows specialized crops such as eggplants, peppers, figs, and dates. A typical Turkish meal might consist of spiced lamb, often grilled on a skewer with onion and tomato to make a shish kebab. This would be served with rice or cracked wheat.



ISTANBUL

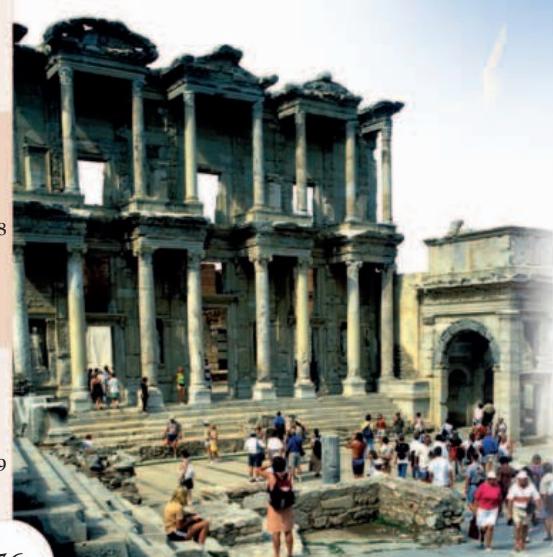
The different faces of Turkey can be seen in its former capital, Istanbul, which lies on both sides of the Bosphorus waterway. Churches, mosques, and ancient buildings in both European and Islamic styles sit side by side with modern stores and offices. Bridges link the two parts of the city. In 1923, Ankara became the new capital.



EPHESUS

Tourism is one of Turkey's major industries. As well as beach resorts, the country has many ancient sites. One of these is the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, which lies 35 miles (56 km) south of modern-day Izmir on the Aegean coast. The city was famous for its Temple of Artemis, which was considered one of the seven wonders of the world.

Visitors to Ephesus admiring the remains of the Library of Celsus



FATHER OF THE TURKS

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881–1938), the founder of the modern Turkish state, became its first president in 1923. He introduced many reforms, including more equality for women and better education for all. He also declared that Islam was no longer the official religion.



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**RUG MARKET**

Turkey is world-famous for its knotted-pile rugs—known as kilims—woven by skilled craftworkers. Each region of Turkey produces rugs with different designs and colors. Every worker incorporates into the designs symbols that tell the maker's own family history or origins.

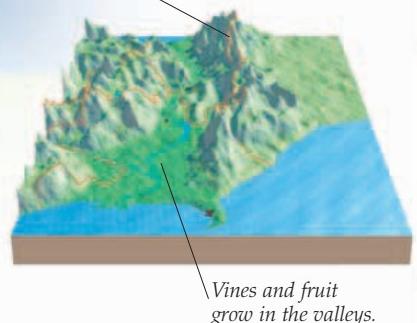


OIL FROM AZERBAIJAN
Many years ago, caravans of camels carried vessels loaded with oil from Baku to nearby countries. By the end of the 1800s, the city was known as the "black gold" capital of the world. Today, the total amount of oil that could be produced is 1.1 billion tons, which does not include undeveloped areas off the coast.



Mount Ararat in Turkey is said to be the resting place of Noah's ark after the flood described in the Bible.

Caucasus Mountains block cold air from the north.

**CAUCASUS**

The towering Caucasus Mountains protect Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan from cold northerly winds. As a result, farmers can take advantage of this mild climate to grow citrus fruit, tobacco, and tea. Walnuts and hazelnuts are valuable export crops.

PEOPLE OF TURKEY

The Turks, who make up about 70 percent of the population of 75 million, are a diverse group with a shared sense of national identity. The largest minority in Turkey—about 15 million people—are the Kurds (below), who speak their own language but have no homeland. They live in eastern Turkey, as well as in neighbouring Iraq and Iran.





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Russia and Kazakhstan

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION is the biggest country in the world, almost twice as big as either the USA or China. It extends halfway around the world, crosses two continents, and spans 11 time zones. The vast region of Siberia alone is larger than Canada. Kazakhstan lies to its south and is a large but sparsely populated country. From 1917 to 1991, both countries were part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), the world's first communist state. When the U.S.S.R. collapsed, Russia, Kazakhstan, and the 13 other member republics gained independence. Since then, Russia and Kazakhstan have begun to transform themselves from communist states into democratic nations. Both countries have a lot of fertile land, huge mineral deposits, and many other natural resources. However, Russia still has a very low life expectancy compared to other industrialized countries.

Lake Baikal is up to 6,365 ft (1,940 m) deep and contains more than 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply.

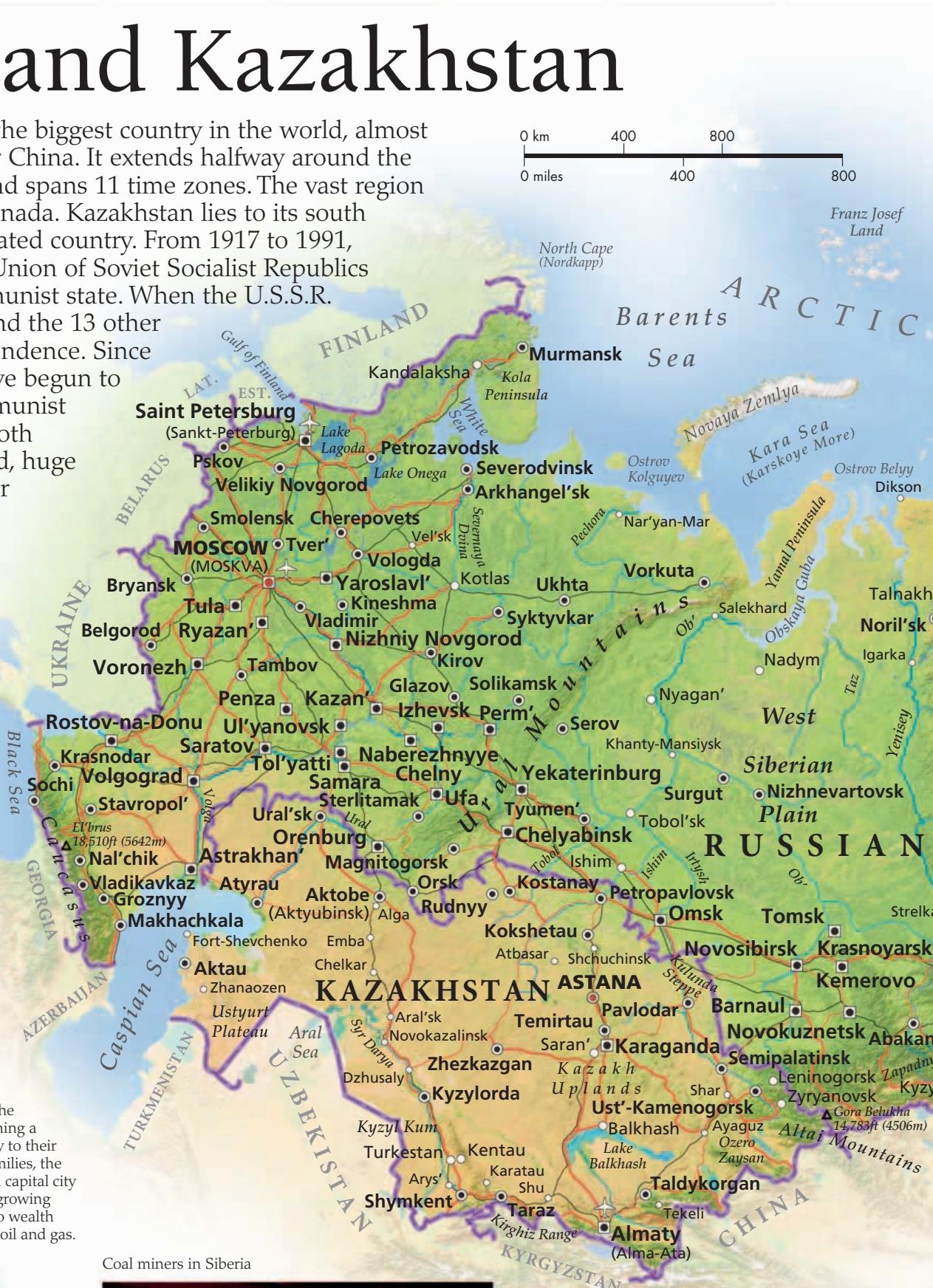
Kazakh man hunting with a trained golden eagle



KAZAKH CULTURE

The majority of people in Kazakhstan are Kazakh Muslims. They were once a nomadic people who traveled around on horseback, herding their sheep.

Although most Kazakhs live in rural areas of the country, retaining a strong loyalty to their clans and families, the new, modern capital city of Astana is growing quickly, due to wealth generated by oil and gas.



Coal miners in Siberia



NATURAL WEALTH

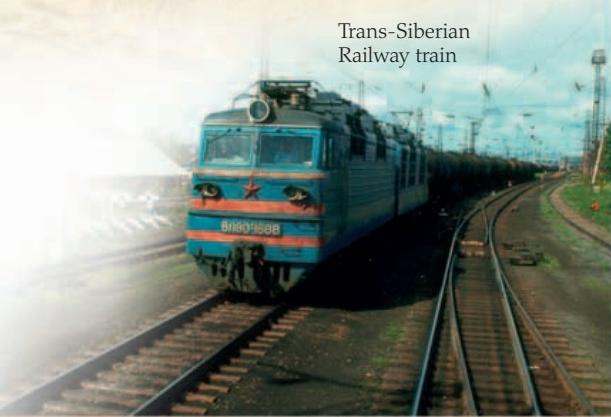
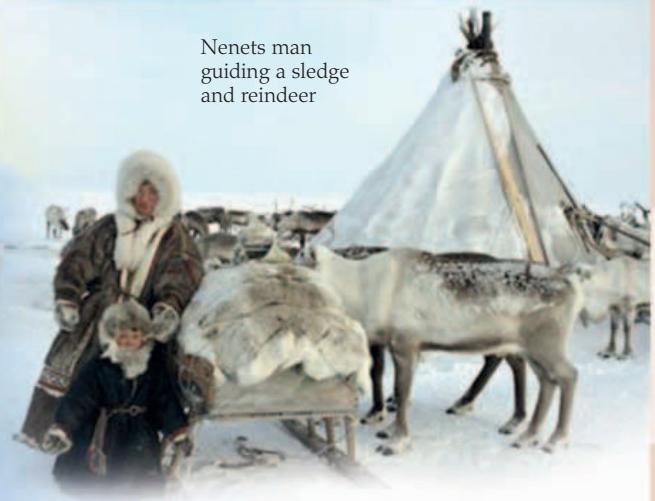
Siberia contains almost one third of the world's natural gas reserves and has huge deposits of oil, as well as abundant minerals such as coal and precious metals including gold. However, many of these resources are inaccessible or in remote places, and the extreme winters make it difficult to extract them.

TAIGA FOREST

Russia's forests cover more than two fifths of the country's territory. The taiga type extends across the Urals to cover most of Siberia. This type of forest is formed by small, widely spaced trees, with large areas of poorly drained marsh grasses.



Nenets man
guiding a sledge
and reindeer



TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY
The longest railroad in the world runs 5,785 miles (9,310 km) from Moscow's Yaroslavl station in the west, across Siberia, to the Pacific port of Vladivostok in the east. The railroad was started in 1891 and took 14 years to finish. Trains take eight days to complete the trip and cross eight time zones.



NATIVE PEOPLES

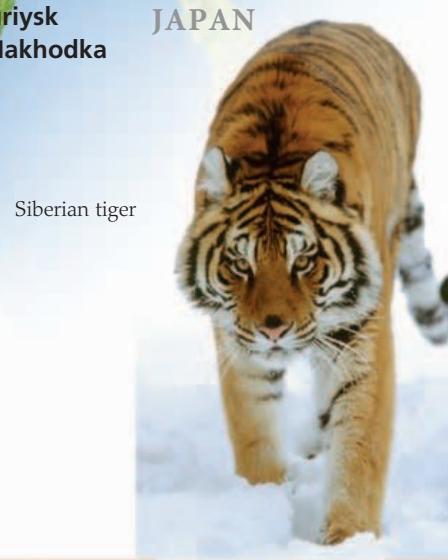
During the winter months, temperatures in Siberia regularly drop to below -45°F (-43°C). The native peoples who live here, such as the Nenets people of the Yamal peninsula region, have adapted well to their environment and survive by herding reindeer, hunting, and fishing.

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE
Russian is the official language of the Russian Federation, but many of the 152 other nationalities inside the country speak their own languages, too. The Russian language uses the Cyrillic alphabet, which was devised by Greek missionaries.



OLD CUSTOMS

The communists tried to impose a Russian national culture on the native peoples of Siberia, but many of their customs survived in remote areas. Today, traditional costumes, music, and dance are all flourishing throughout Siberia.



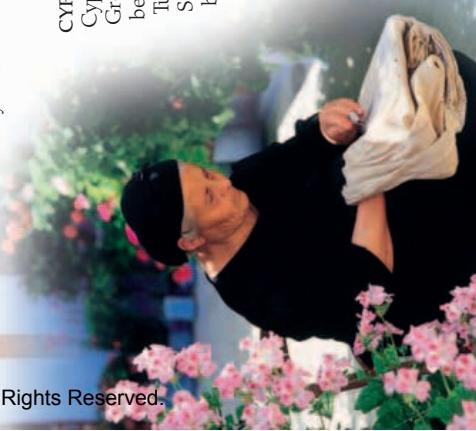
SIBERIAN WILDLIFE
Siberia is home to a huge range of wildlife, including the rare Siberian tiger (the biggest tiger in the world), wolves, reindeer, and black and brown bears. The Baikal seal—found only in Lake Baikal—is the world's only freshwater seal.

The Near East

ISRAEL, JORDAN, SYRIA, AND LEBANON are the countries collectively known as the Near East. This is a land that is dominated by deserts but also has fertile coastal plains. Lack of water is a constant problem here, although Israel has introduced computerized irrigation systems to extend the land suitable for agriculture. The creation of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948, in what was previously Arab-dominated Palestine, has led to almost continuous conflict in the region. Arabs and Israelis have fought four major wars that have cost many lives. The Mediterranean island of Cyprus has also suffered a violent recent history.



LEBANON REBUILT
Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, was once the commercial and banking center of the Arab world but was devastated by the civil war that ravaged the country from 1975 to the early 1990s. Today, the country is largely at peace, and Beirut is regaining much of its former glory. Lebanon remains dominated, however, by its two powerful neighbors—Syria and Israel.



CYPRUS
Cyprus became independent from Great Britain in 1960. However, conflict between Greeks and Turks caused Turkey to invade the island in 1974. Since then, Cyprus has been divided between a Turkish-Cypriot north and a Greek-Cypriot south. Most Cypriots make a living from farming grapes, citrus fruit, and olives. Women often sell handmade lace items to tourists.



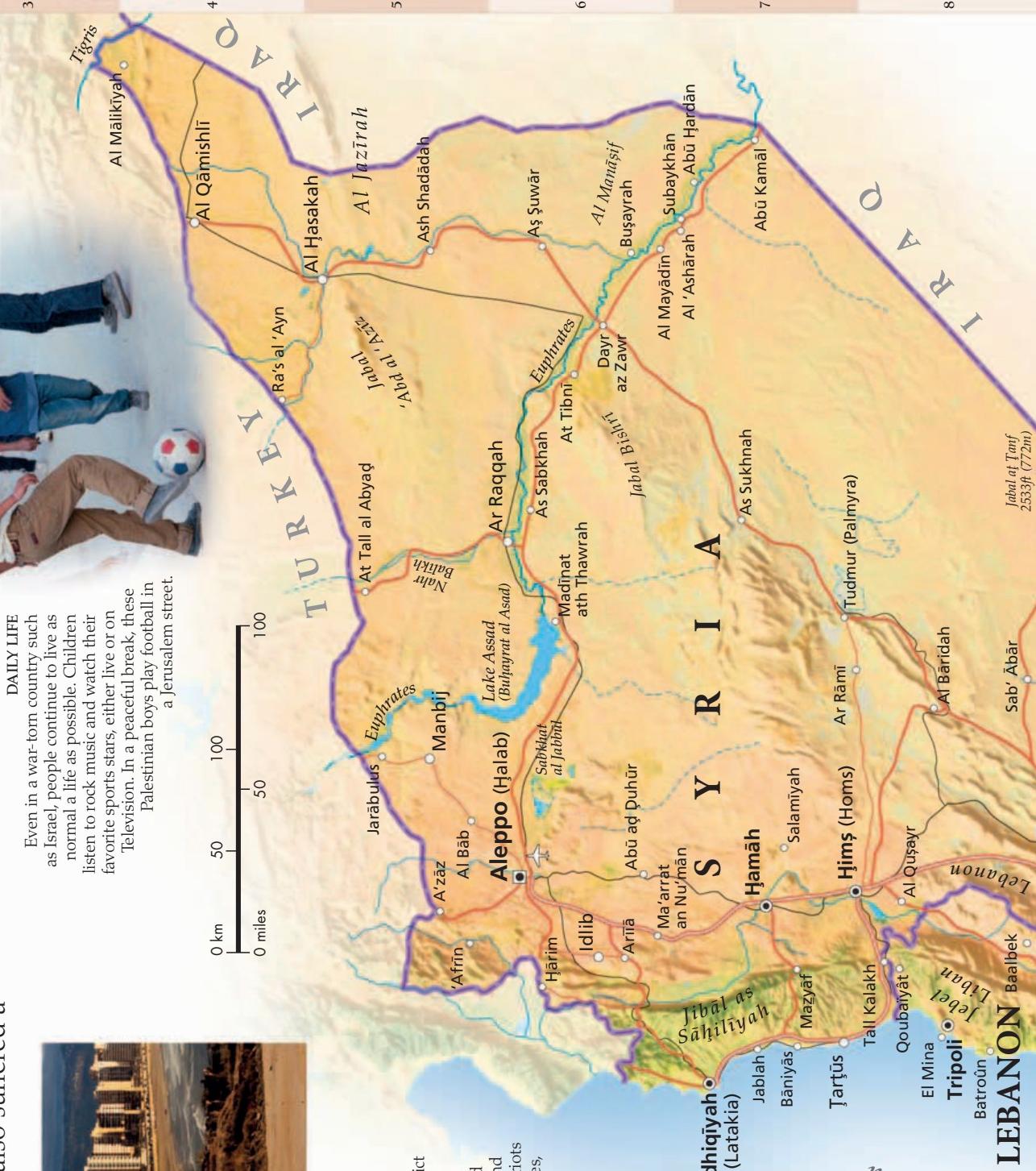
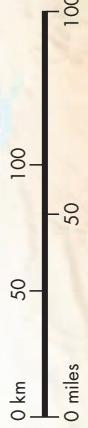
SYRIAN MARKET

Damascus is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. At its center is a huge souk (bazaar) where the streets are full of stalls and small stores selling everything from rugs, textiles, and jewelry to household goods and fresh produce.



DAILY LIFE

Even in a war-torn country such as Israel, people continue to live as normal a life as possible. Children listen to rock music and watch their favorite sports stars, either live or on television. In a peaceful break, these Palestinian boys play football in a Jerusalem street.



ANCIENT CITY OF PETRA
Temples and tombs were cut out of the rock to form the spectacular city of Petra in modern-day Jordan. Petra was built by the Nabataeans, an Arab tribe from the 300s B.C.E.

The remains of the city are situated in a valley surrounded by cliffs, with only one narrow entrance. Petra is Jordan's most famous historic site.

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*The Dome of
the Rock*

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A vertical map of Lebanon oriented from north to south. It features several major cities marked with red squares and labeled in bold capital letters: BEIRUT (BEYROUTH) at the top, followed by Zahle, Rayak, Dūmā, Qafanā, Saïda, and TELL ABBAS at the bottom. The map also shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west. Landmarks like Mount Mālik and Mount Triqat are indicated with triangles. A small airplane icon is positioned near the northern coast.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES
The frequent wars between Israel and its Arab neighbors have created a huge number of Palestinian refugees who have fled Israel to seek shelter in adjoining countries. Many live in poorly equipped refugee camps or settlements, with few facilities and little chance of work. There are currently about 4.3 million registered refugees living in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the West Bank.

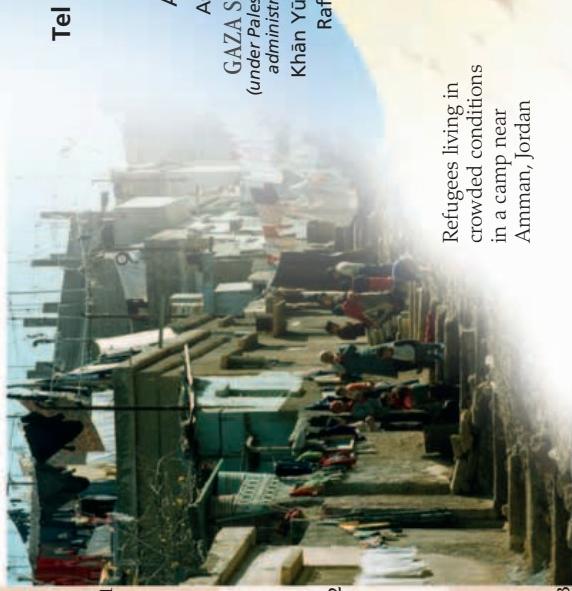
The image is a composite of two parts. The upper portion shows a photograph of a large, ancient stone structure with multiple columns and arches, possibly a Nabataean temple or part of the Great Temple at Petra. The lower portion is a political map of the Middle East. It features a purple-outlined triangle representing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with its capital Amman marked by a red square. To the west is the West Bank, with several settlements like Petah Tikva, Holon, and Tel Aviv-Yafo marked. The Gaza Strip is shown in green, labeled as being under Palestinian administration. To the east is Saudi Arabia, with the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Western Wall marked. The Dead Sea is to the west of Jordan, and the Jordan River flows from it through the country. Major cities like Ma'dabā, Al 'Umarī, Bayir, Qū' al-Jafr, Ma'ān, Rā's an Naqib, Al Quwayrah, Elat, and Al 'Aqabah are marked along the river. The map also includes labels for the Negev (Ha Negev), Mitzpe Ramon, Be'er Menuhá, Gharandal, and Petra. The word 'ISRAEL' is written vertically along the southern border of Jordan. The word 'EGYPT' is written diagonally across the bottom right corner. The word 'SAUDI ARABIA' is written vertically along the eastern border of Jordan.

the Jordan River, which forms a border with Israel, is an important issue in peace talks. The desert is home to nomadic tribes of Bedouin, who live in large tents woven from camel hair. Modern Bedouin use cars and trucks for transportation. Jordan has few natural resources other than phosphates, which it exports for use as fertilizer, and some limited oil reserves.

The old city of Jerusalem is sacred to three of the world's major religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—each with their own holy sites and separate districts. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital. As a result, the city is a frequent source of conflict. The Dome of the Rock, sacred to Muslims, and the Western Wall, sacred to Jews, stand next to each other.

An aerial photograph showing the Western Wall Plaza in Jerusalem. The plaza is paved with large stones and features several Israeli flags flying from poles. In the background, the Western Wall (Kotel) is visible, along with other parts of the Old City's architecture.

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The Middle East

THE MIDDLE EAST IS HOME to the world's oldest civilizations, which developed in the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys of present-day Iraq more than 6,000 years ago. The world's first towns and cities were built here. Since then, many powerful empires have dominated the region, all leaving a wealth of buildings and monuments behind them. Today, the Middle East is at the center of the Islamic world. The population of every country is Arab and speaks Arabic, except Iran, where half the population are Farsi-speaking Persians.

DESSERT WARS

Most international boundaries in the Middle East are simply lines drawn in the sand by former European colonial powers and have often caused conflicts. Iraq and Iran fought a bitter eight-year war along their common border from 1980. Since then, further conflicts between Iraq and international forces have caused a lot of suffering.

OIL PRODUCTION

The Middle East is the world's major oil producer—Saudi Arabia alone produces more than 10 percent of the world's supply. Oil has brought great wealth to the region, in particular to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States.



IRANIANS

About half the total population of Iran are Persians, who live in the center and north of the country. Large numbers of Azeris live in the northwest, while Kurds live in the west and Baluchi in the southeast. The official language of Iran is Farsi, but many other languages are also spoken.



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ISLAM The Islamic religion began in the 600s in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Minarets—the tall, thin towers of mosques—dominate the skyline of every town and city in the region. From these, devout Muslims are summoned to pray five times a day. Muslims are also required to make a Hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca (above) at least once in their lifetime.



The Koran—the book of sacred writings of Islam

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to be named after its royal family—the house of Al Saud.

WATER A lot of the Middle

covered with a hot desert. Water is scarce although there are some oases where animals can be watered and crops irrigated. On the coastline, desalination plants, such as this one in Oman, remove salt from seawater to make it suitable for domestic consumption and agriculture.

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD A typical Middle Eastern meal consists of pita bread, bulgur wheat, lentils, spiced meat—usually lamb or goat—fruit, and hummus made from chickpeas. Most people do not drink alcohol, preferring water, mint tea, or coffee from Yemen, the producer of some of the world's finest coffee beans.



A collage featuring three main elements: a large bowl of tabbouleh garnished with olives and mint, a smaller bowl of blue and white patterned ceramicware, and a plate of golden-brown pita chips. Below the bowls is a scale bar with markings for 0 km, 150, 300 miles, and 300 km/miles. To the right, a vertical column of text discusses water scarcity in the Middle East.

A photograph showing several large fish, likely tuna or mackerel, swimming in the water. The fish are dark blue on top and lighter below, with prominent fins and scales visible.

traditional sailboats equipped with outboard motors for greater speed, landing large catches of sardines, humpback anchovies, cuttlefish, cod and other fish.

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD
A typical Middle Eastern meal consists of pita bread, bulgur wheat, lentils, spiced meat—usually lamb or goat—fruit, and hummus made from chickpeas. Most Muslims do not drink alcohol, preferring water, mint tea, or coffee from Yemen, the producer of some of the world's finest coffee beans.



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Central Asia

THE FIVE CENTRAL ASIAN NATIONS rise up from hot deserts in the west and south to cold, high mountain ranges in the east. The area has oil, gas, and mineral reserves, as well as other natural resources, but water is often scarce and agriculture is limited. The four northern nations were once part of the Soviet Union and are now independent nations. Afghanistan is a landlocked country, and three fourths of its land is inaccessible terrain. It was invaded by the Soviet Union in 1979, prompting a civil war that has lasted for more than 20 years. In 2002, American and other Western forces overthrew the fundamentalist Islamic regime in Afghanistan because of its support for international terrorism. The country, however, has been destroyed by these years of continuous warfare, making it one of the poorest and most deprived nations on Earth.

One of the world's largest gold mines is at Muruntau in the Kyzyl Kum desert in Uzbekistan.

FESTIVALS IN AFGHANISTAN

Despite the horrors of recent years, Afghans still celebrate important Islamic festivals, notably Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. People visit friends and family and eat a festive meal together. The art of storytelling still flourishes in Afghanistan, as does the *attan*, the national dance.



An Afghan refugee carries bread with which to break the Ramadan fast.

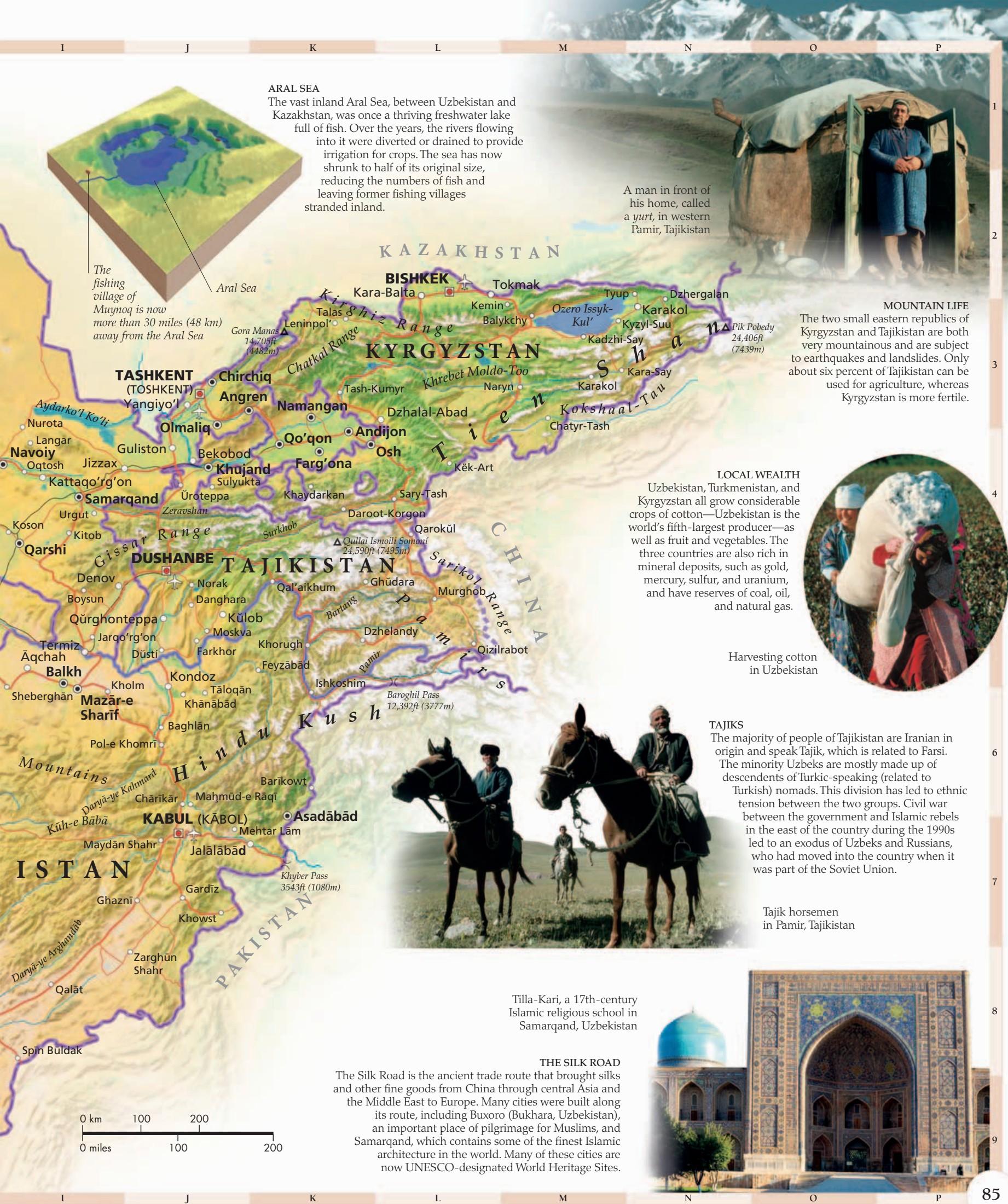


Children in Kabul, Afghanistan, made homeless by war

LIFE EXPECTANCY

As a result of war, drought, and poverty, people in Afghanistan can expect to live an average of only 45 years, one of the lowest life expectancy rates in the world. Infant mortality is extremely high. Health services have almost completely collapsed, and few trained doctors and nurses are available to help the sick. Sadly, there are not enough orphanages to cope with the increasing number of children made homeless by war.







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Indian Subcontinent

SEPARATED FROM the rest of Asia by the Himalayas, the Indian subcontinent is home to almost one fourth of the world's population—a staggering 1.5 billion people. They have a long and complex history, form many different ethnic groups, speak a wide variety of languages, and worship many different gods. While some people in these countries are wealthy, many others live in poverty. Tensions between and within countries in this region have sometimes erupted into warfare. The Indian subcontinent is often affected by natural disasters, notably cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and earthquakes and floods in Pakistan. However, India, the most heavily populated nation and once prone to famine, is now more than self-sufficient in food. All but Nepal and Bhutan were once ruled by the British, whose legacy can be seen in the common language of English, the architecture, the vast railroad system, and in sports—most notably cricket.

MONSOON

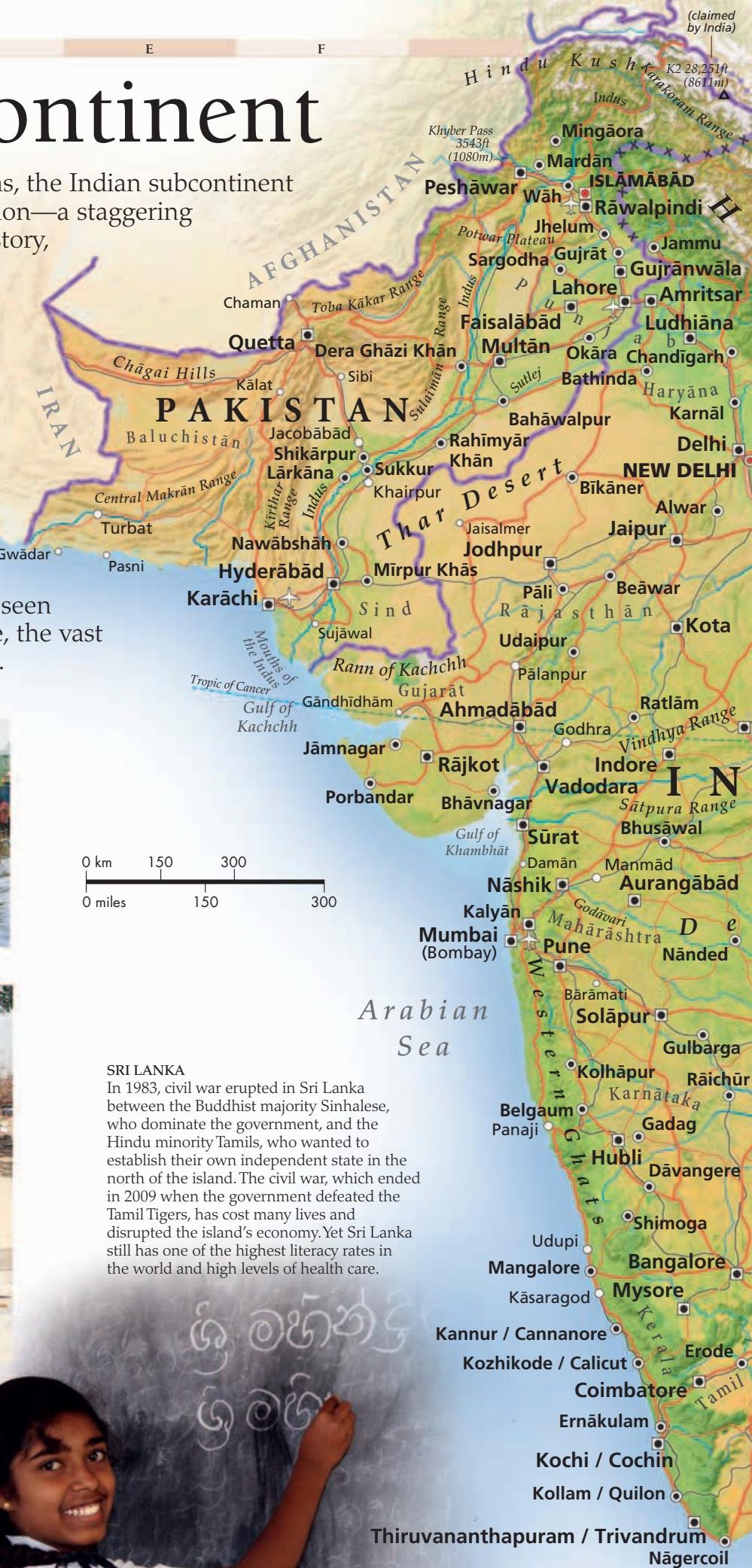
From May/June to September, warm, moist southerly winds sweep up from the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal across the subcontinent. Once these winds meet dry land, moisture falls as monsoon rainfall. Although this irrigates the land and replenishes the water supply, it can also cause severe flooding.



FAMILY LIFE IN PAKISTAN

Pakistanis have strong ties to their extended families, and often many generations live and work together in family-run businesses. Smaller family units, however, are becoming more common in urban areas. Although some women hold prominent positions in public and commercial life, such as Benazir Bhutto who was prime minister twice before she was assassinated in December 2007, most women do not work outside the home.

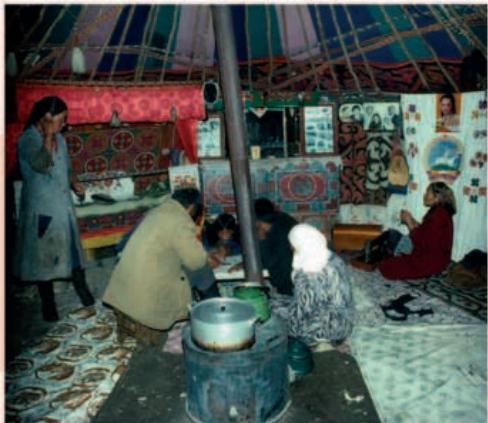
School child,
Sri Lanka





Western China and Mongolia

CHINA IS A LAND of huge geographical diversity and amazing landscapes. More than 90 percent of the population are Han Chinese—descendents of people who settled here more than 5,000 years ago. This region includes western China, Mongolia, and Tibet. Mongolia gained its independence from China in 1911 and is now an independent democracy. Tibet is currently governed by China. Compared to eastern China, this region is sparsely populated and characterized by vast deserts, remote mountains, and extreme temperatures.



In traditional Mongolian khoomi singing, men are able to sing several notes at once.

兒童百科全書

CHINESE WRITING

The Chinese alphabet is not made up of letters. Instead, separate symbols stand for individual words or parts of words. There are more than 40,000 characters in the Chinese language. The same symbols are used everywhere in China, and no matter what Chinese language or dialect people speak, they can all read the same script.

Chinese symbols, whose strokes have to be written in a certain order

MONGOLIANS

Most of the people living in Mongolia are Khalkha Mongols. About half of these people now live in urban areas, but some still lead traditional lives as nomadic herders. They live in large felt tents called *yurts*. Smoke from the central iron stove escapes through a chimney in the roof.

DESERT LANDS

The cold, rocky Gobi Desert (right) stretches for more than 400,000 sq miles (1,000,000 sq km) through Mongolia and northeast China. Many dinosaur bones and eggs have been found here, making it one of the richest dinosaur fossil regions in the world.



MONASTERIES IN MONGOLIA

Under communism, Mongolians were forbidden to practice their traditional Buddhist faith, which was viewed as superstitious and unscientific. Since the democratic government was set up in 1990, about 100 monasteries have reopened. Most people, however, no longer follow any religion.



FESTIVAL OF NAADAM

Each July, people all over Mongolia celebrate the sports festival of Naadam.

Three sports—wrestling (above), archery, and horse riding—are the focus of the festivities. The skills needed to take part in these activities are those that would have helped people survive a traditional nomadic lifestyle.

PEOPLE OF TIBET

Most Tibetans live in the valleys of the Tibetan plateau, high up in the Himalayas and surrounded by the world's tallest mountains.

The world's tallest mountains, Tibetans have their own language and culture. Recently, many Han Chinese have moved to this region looking for a better life.



Tibetan village children



BUDDHIST TIBET

BUDDHIST TIBET
Many Tibetans are devout Buddhists. Their religious leader, the Dalai Lama, used to live in Lhasa. In 1951, however, Tibet became part of China, and the government restricted the people's religious freedom and lifestyle. This has resulted in tension between Tibetans and the Chinese government. The Dalai Lama now lives in exile in India.



TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
As well as modern medicine, many Chinese still use alternative remedies. Traditional medicine is based on the belief that health is achieved by balancing a person's mind and body—their yin and yang. Any imbalance is treated with medicines made from dried plant materials (left). Some animals, including Asiatic bears, are now endangered owing to the demand for parts used in traditional medicine.

Eastern China and Korea

CHINA HAS A LARGE population of more than 1.3 billion, with two thirds living in eastern China. For thousands of years, powerful emperors ruled China. During this period, Chinese civilization was very advanced, but most of the population lived in poverty. In 1949, after a communist revolution, the People's Republic of China was established. Food, education, and health care became available to more people, but there was also a loss of freedom. Today, Chinese people have more freedom, but the government still has tight control over their lives. The Korean peninsula is politically divided into north and south, and political tensions continue to exist between the two governments. Since 1949, Taiwan has been in dispute with China about who governs the mountainous island of Taiwan.



HONG KONG

For 100 years, Hong Kong was a British colony. Then, in 1997, it was returned to China. These small islands are some of the most densely populated areas of the world. Most people live and work in skyscrapers. It has a prosperous economy at the heart of global finance, and the people there have one of the world's highest life expectancies.

Skyline of Hong Kong with a Chinese junk in the foreground



ONE-CHILD FAMILIES

Many Chinese children do not have brothers or sisters. This is owing to policies introduced by the Chinese government in 1979. To try to control the rising population, the government offers special benefits to couples with only one child. Although this has slowed down the rate of growth, China's population still grows by millions each year.



PADDY FIELDS

Rice forms the basis of most Chinese meals. It grows in paddy fields in the southeast of the country. During the growing season, fields are flooded so that farmers can grow more rice more quickly. In drier regions, wheat is grown and used to make noodles, buns, and dumplings. Rice or wheat is combined with local vegetables, meats, and spices to create regional dishes.

NEW-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the country's most important festival. It is usually held in January or February. Good-luck messages decorate buildings, and there are feasts, fireworks, fairs, and processions.

People wear red clothes for good luck and give gifts of coins to symbolize wealth.



Chinese New Year parade





NORTH KOREA

North Korea is an independent communist country, but since the break up of the Soviet Union, it has lost many of its trading partners and is now very poor. However, the country has a good education system and a high literacy rate. Education is free and compulsory for all children for ten years.



SOUTH KOREA

South Korea is a democratic nation with a thriving electronics and machinery industry. One fourth of the population lives in or near the capital city, Seoul. The Internet has quickly developed in South Korea and plays an important role in work and leisure. The children below are using computers at an Internet café in the central city of Taejon.

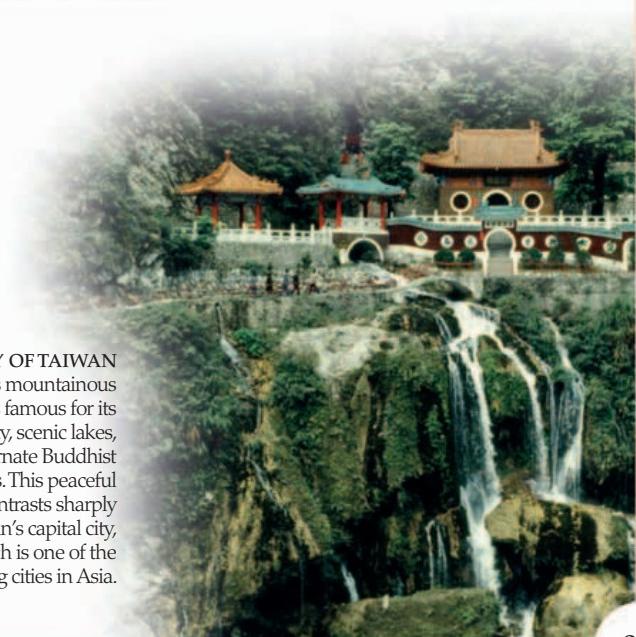


The majority of the Chinese population lives in only 15 percent of the total land area.



MODERN SHANGHAI

China's largest city is Shanghai. More than 13 million people live in this wealthy east-coast port. International trade has recently transformed Shanghai's skyline, which is now crowded with skyscrapers and modern shopping malls. The center of town still has some old Western-style buildings that have survived from the days before the revolution.



BEAUTY OF TAIWAN

Taiwan's mountainous countryside is famous for its natural beauty, scenic lakes, and many ornate Buddhist temples. This peaceful environment contrasts sharply with Taiwan's capital city, Taipei, which is one of the fastest-growing cities in Asia.



Japan

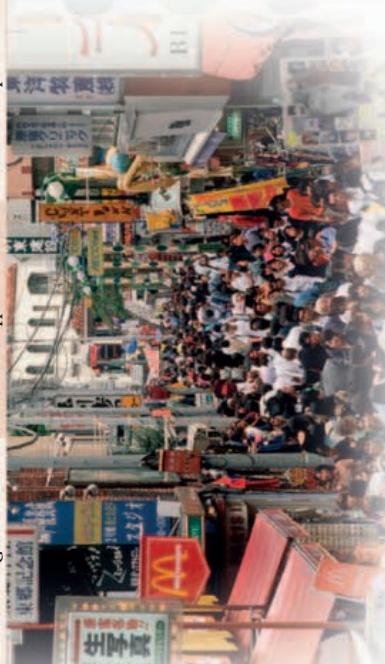
JAPAN IS SITUATED in the north Pacific Ocean off the coast of the Asian continent.

It is made up of four main islands and more than 3,000 smaller ones. The Japanese people have a distinctive culture based on traditions built up over thousands of years.

They have their own language and script. School children all learn to read and write both in the traditional script and using letters. Social rules in Japan are strict, and respect and politeness are considered very important. Most people bow when greeting one another, for example. Japan is a very modern country, however, with one of the world's most technologically advanced societies. Its economy is based on the development and production of cutting-edge electronics and vehicles, and most families have the latest consumer goods.

EARTHQUAKES

The islands of Japan are situated in an area where four of Earth's tectonic plates meet. This causes frequent earthquakes. Japanese school children are taught how to stay safe during an earthquake by sheltering in a doorway or under a table.



2

OVERCROWDING

Most of the country's 127 million people live in cities in the flatter coastal areas. Tokyo and Osaka are very crowded, and homes here are usually very small and are designed to make the most of the limited space.

3

La Perouse Strait



4

RELIGIONS OF JAPAN

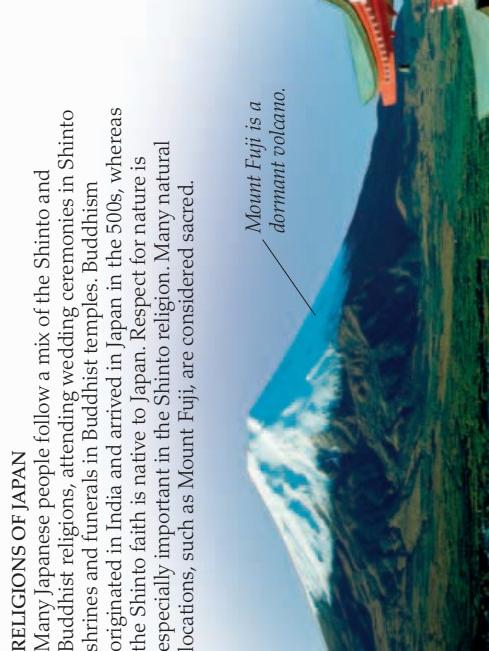
Many Japanese people follow a mix of the Shinto and Buddhist religions, attending wedding ceremonies in Shinto shrines and funerals in Buddhist temples. Buddhism originated in India and arrived in Japan in the 500s, whereas the Shinto faith is native to Japan. Respect for nature is especially important in the Shinto religion. Many natural locations, such as Mount Fuji, are considered sacred.



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FASHION IN JAPAN
On regular days, Japanese people usually wear Western-style clothes. Most children have a school uniform. On festival days, such as Children's Day, many people prefer to wear the traditional kimono. Women's kimonos are often made of colorful silk, decorated with beautiful designs.



8

Japan's economy is based on high-tech research, development, and production. The country has built a reputation for providing the latest technology in vehicles and electronic goods, such as televisions, computers, and stereo systems. Japanese products are usually of a high quality but are still affordable.



Prototype of a
Mazda car, produced
in Hiroshima



MARTIAL ARTS

Kendo is a popular martial art in Japan. It was developed (in its modern form) about 200 years ago and teaches the art of Japanese samurai swordsmanship. Children train using bamboo swords (above).



Prototype of a
Mazda car, produced
in Hiroshima



Prototype of a
Mazda car, produced
in Hiroshima



The image is a composite of several elements. At the top right is a photograph of a white and blue Shinkansen bullet train pulling into a modern station. The rest of the image is a map of Japan with green landmasses and blue oceans. Overlaid on the map are several circular callout boxes containing text and images. One box on the far left discusses 'MARTIAL ARTS' and shows a person in traditional Japanese clothing. Another box on the top left discusses 'BASEBALL' and shows a baseball field. A large central box discusses 'A HEALTHY DIET' and shows a plate of sushi. Other boxes cover topics like 'BULLET TRAINS', 'SUSHI', and 'OCEAN'. The map also features labels for major cities like Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, as well as regional names like 'Kii-suidō' and 'Bungo-suidō'. The bottom right corner contains a small inset map of Okinawa.

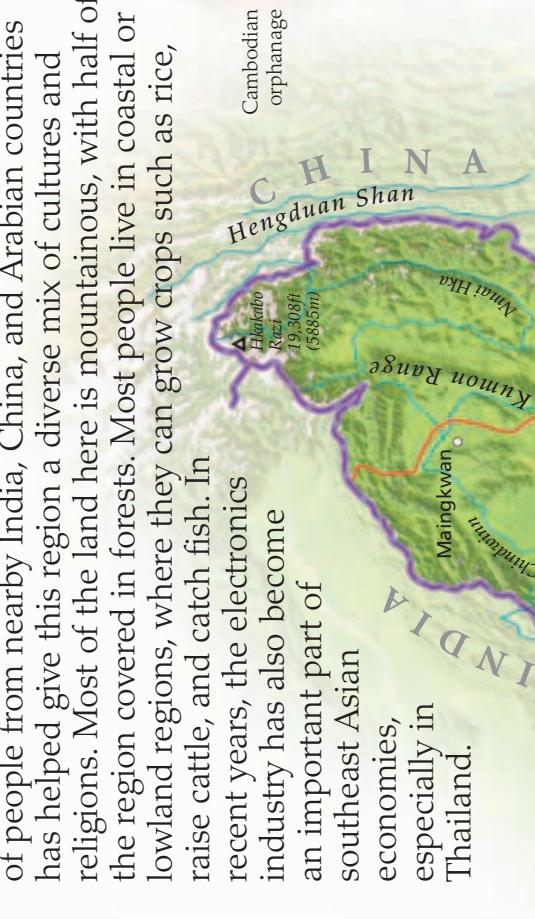
Mainland SE Asia



THE PENINSULA of Southeast Asia lies directly to the south of India and China, between the Pacific and Indian oceans. It is made up of Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Over thousands of years, the influence of people from nearby India, China, and Arabian countries has helped give this region a diverse mix of cultures and religions. Most of the land here is mountainous, with half of the region covered in forests. Most people live in coastal or lowland regions, where they can grow crops such as rice, raise cattle, and catch fish. In recent years, the electronics industry has also become an important part of southeast Asian economies, especially in Thailand.

ORPHANS IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia has a very high percentage of widows and orphans mostly because many men were killed in civil wars in recent decades.



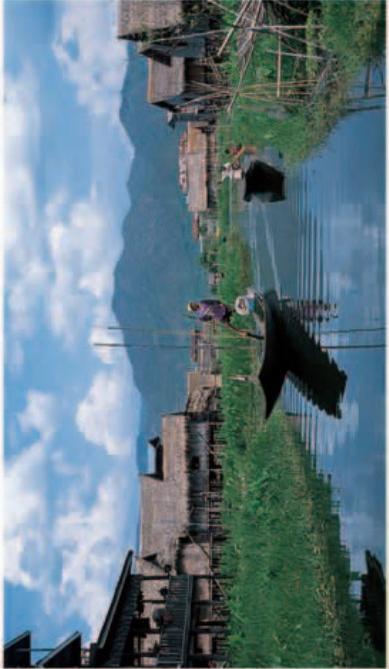
GROWING RICE

Rice is the most important crop in southeast Asia. It grows well in wet lowland areas, such as the Mekong River delta in Vietnam, where the plants can be grown in paddy fields. Most rice is planted and harvested by women.



RURAL LIVING

Most people in southeast Asia live in rural areas rather than cities, and farming is the most common occupation. The steep, mountainous regions are often unsuitable for growing crops or raising cattle, however, and many farming communities are based in the fertile river valleys and deltas. There are more than 200 villages on and around this lake (right) in Myanmar.



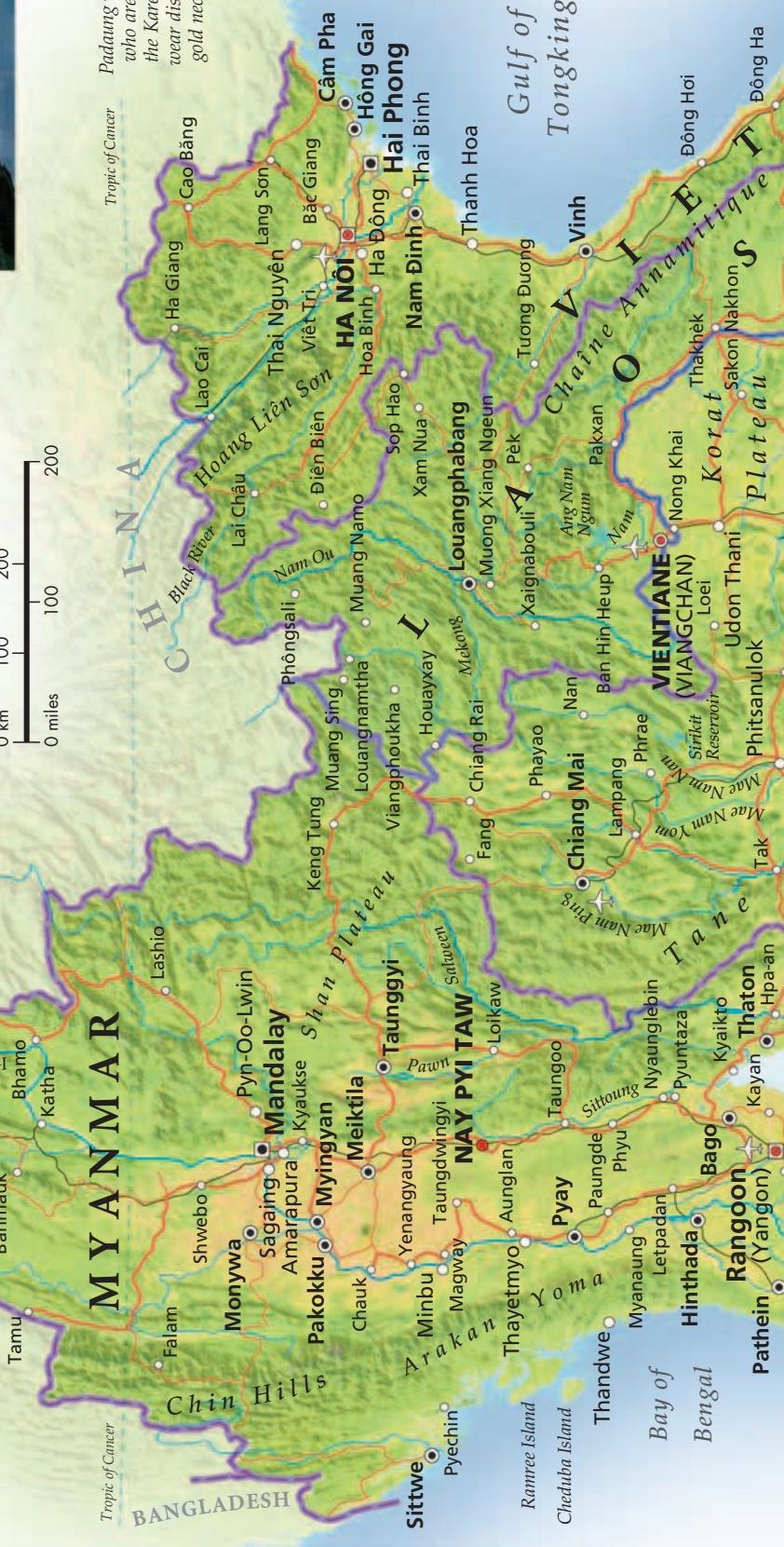
Padaung women

who are part of the Karen tribe, wear distinctive gold neck rings.



KAREN TRIBE

There are 600,000 tribespeople living in the northeastern hills of Thailand. The Karen are the largest hill tribe. They originated from Myanmar but moved into Thailand to escape political unrest.





A large, previously unknown mammal, the Vu Quang ox was only recently discovered in the forests of northern Vietnam.

THAI BEACHES Tourism is now a major industry for Thailand. Popular destinations include the country's lively capital, Bangkok, and beautiful island beach resorts (below). Phuket, Thailand's largest island, is often referred to as the "Pearl of the South."

This combination of temples and palaces was built in 1113 CE by the Khmer King Suryavarman II. The buildings, such as Angkor Wat, below, are made of stone and brick and are decorated with relief sculptures showing mythical scenes of Hindu gods and great royal processions. The complex was uncovered in 1861 by French naturalist Henri Mouhot, following stories of a "lost city" in the jungle.

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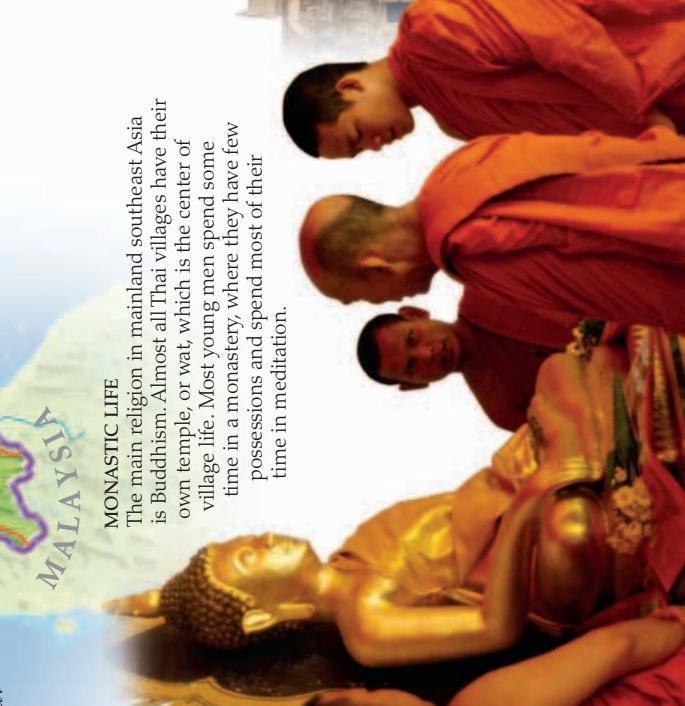
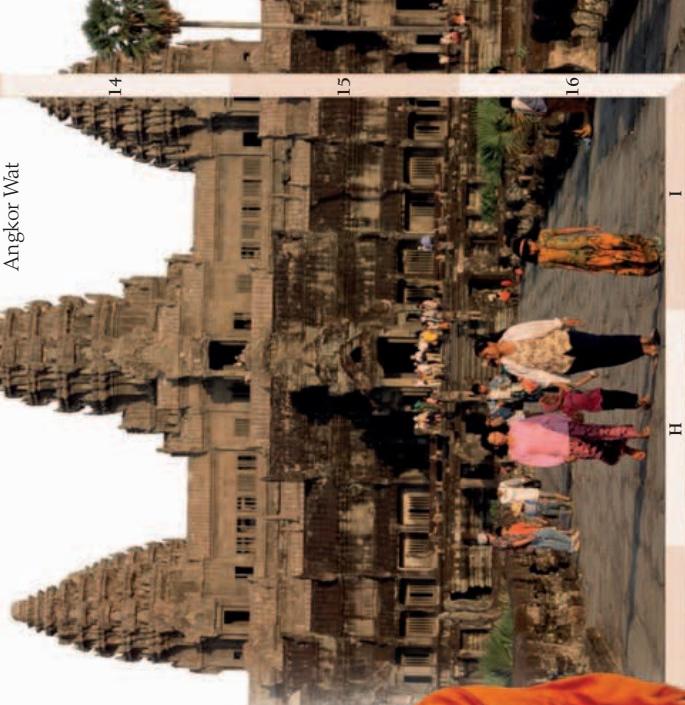
卷之三

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MAGNIFICENT

is Buddhism. Almost all Thai villages have their own temple, or wat, which is the center of village life. Most young men spend some time in a monastery, where they have few possessions and spend most of their time in meditation.





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Maritime SE Asia

To the south of the Asian mainland lies maritime southeast Asia. It includes Malaysia, Indonesia, East Timor, Singapore, and the Philippines. Part of Malaysia is connected to the mainland, but the rest of the region is made up of more than 20,000 islands that stretch across the Pacific and Indian oceans. Lying near the Equator, the climate is mostly hot, wet, and humid. Most of the larger islands are mountainous and covered in dense forests, and many people live in villages near rivers or on the coast. Like the rest of southeast Asia, the population is made up of people from many different cultural backgrounds speaking hundreds of different languages. The most common religion is Islam, except in the Philippines, where most people are Roman Catholic.



Ubudiah mosque, Malaysia

SINGAPORE

As the financial and industrial centre of southeast Asia, Singapore is one of the wealthiest countries in this region. It has a thriving high-tech industry and a high standard of living. There are strictly enforced laws forbidding littering and other petty crimes. The death penalty is imposed for drug smuggling. The government also controls the press and restricts the Internet.

**GREAT APES**

Orangutans are great apes that live only in Borneo and the northern corner of Sumatra. They spend most of their time in the trees, even building tree-top nests in which to sleep. Sadly, the orangutan is endangered because of deforestation.

Sultan
of Brunei

**THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI**

Brunei is ruled by a sultan who lives in the world's largest palace. The sultan is one of the wealthiest men in the world.

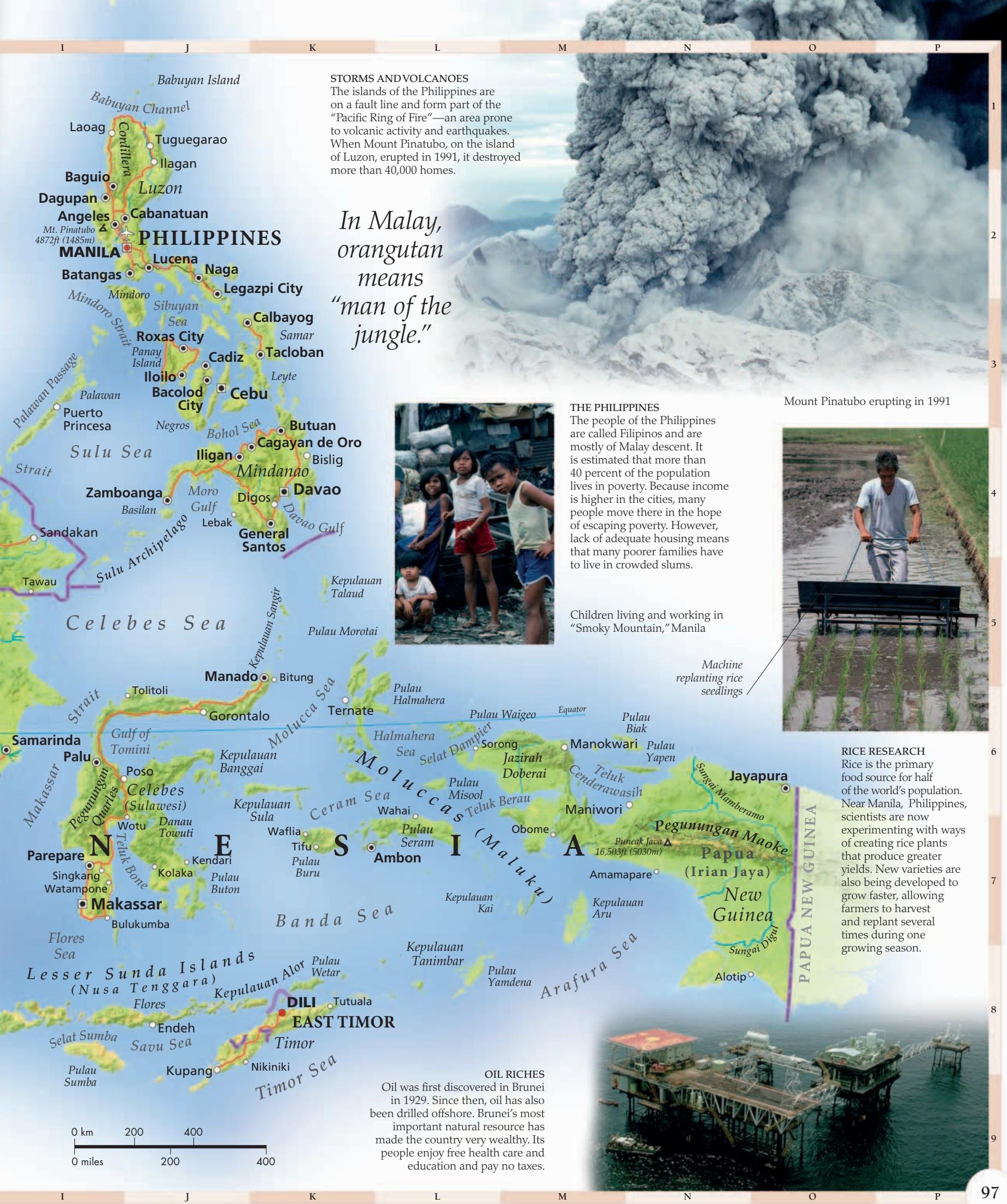
Gunung Kinabalu
13,455ft (4101m)

Kota Kinabalu
**BANDAR SERI
BEGAWAN**
BRUNEI

**KITE FLYING**

After the harvest, the people of Malaysia celebrate with the Wau (kite-flying) Festival, where skilled people demonstrate the traditional Malaysian sport.





Indian Ocean

THE THIRD-LARGEST ocean in the world, the Indian Ocean is bounded by Africa, Asia, Australasia, and Antarctica. The ocean contains some 5,000 islands. Madagascar and Sri Lanka are large, but most of the islands are small and ringed by coral reefs. The people of the Maldives have very mixed origins, incorporating Indian, Sinhalese, Arab, and African heritages, while two thirds of those living in Mauritius are Indian immigrants and their descendants. Altogether, about one fifth of the world's population live on this ocean's warm shores. Those along the northern coasts are often threatened by monsoon rain and tropical storms, which can cause severe flooding.

CORAL ISLANDS

Coral is a living organism formed in warm water by tiny sea creatures known as polyps. These creatures build limestone skeletons around themselves that accumulate over thousands of years. As sea levels change, this coral can be exposed as low-lying islands or submerged as reefs.



THE SEYCHELLES
The Seychelles consists of 115 islands—some are coral islands, while others are mountainous and made of granite. Most Seychellois people are Creoles—people of mixed African, Asian, and European ancestry. There are also small Chinese and Indian communities.



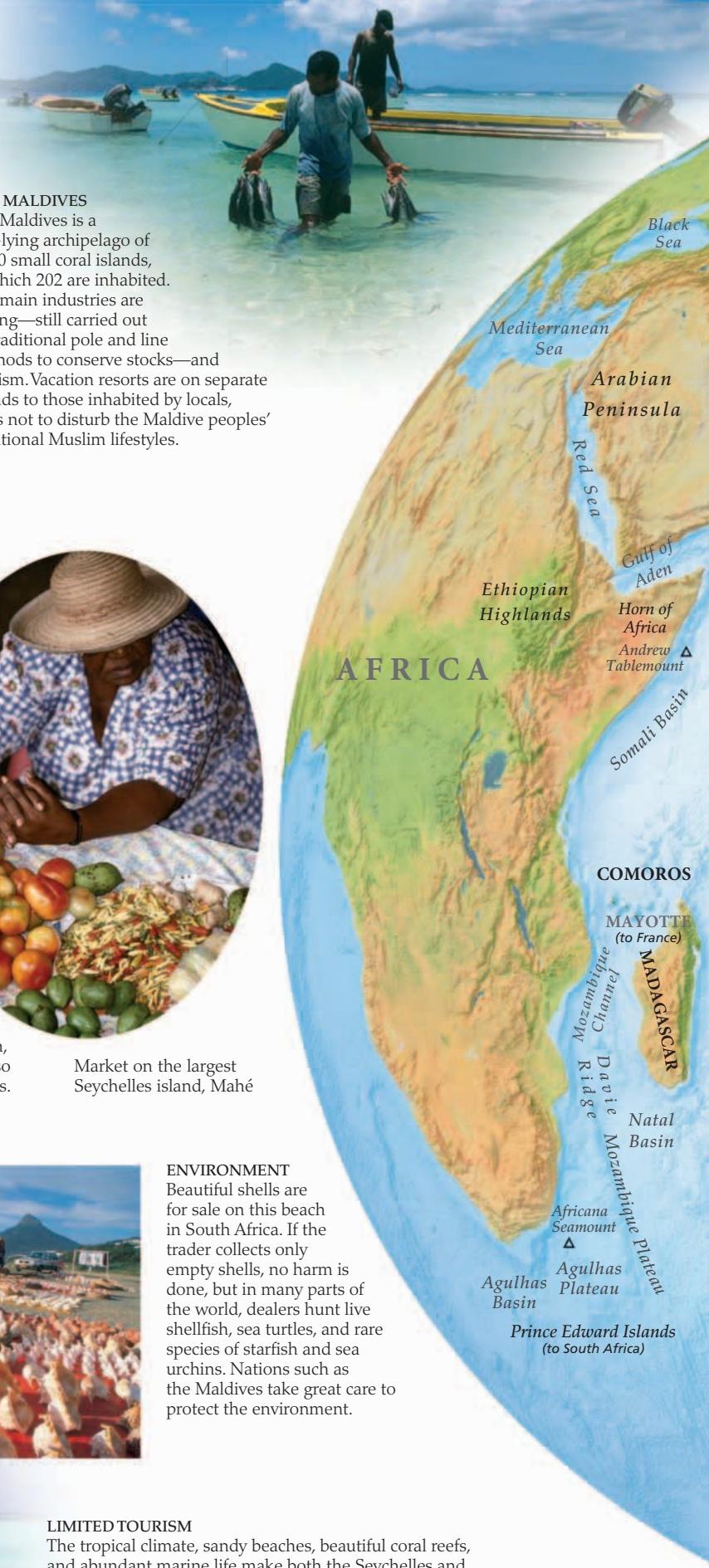
Market on the largest Seychelles island, Mahé

ENVIRONMENT
Beautiful shells are for sale on this beach in South Africa. If the trader collects only empty shells, no harm is done, but in many parts of the world, dealers hunt live shellfish, sea turtles, and rare species of starfish and sea urchins. Nations such as the Maldives take great care to protect the environment.



LIMITED TOURISM

The tropical climate, sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, and abundant marine life make both the Seychelles and the Maldives ideal tourist destinations. These same features also make them extremely attractive to scuba divers. However, the fragile environment of both island nations means that they have deliberately tried to make them exclusive, attracting only limited numbers of wealthy visitors, instead of pursuing mass tourism.



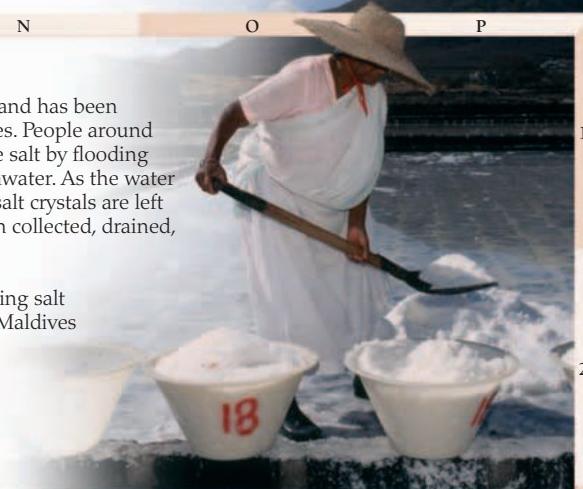
J K L M N O P



SALT FROM THE SEA

SALT FROM THE SEA
Salt is essential for life and has been traded here for centuries. People around the Indian Ocean make salt by flooding large flat areas with seawater. As the water evaporates in the sun, salt crystals are left behind. These are then collected, drained, and cleaned.

Collecting salt in the Maldives



PACIFIC OCEAN



MANGROVES

MANGROVES
A lot of the coast in the tropical part of the Indian Ocean is fringed with mangrove forests. These amazing trees live in salty water and have long roots that trap sediment and protect the coast from erosion. Without these trees, settlements and land along the coast are in danger of being damaged by high tides and strong storms.

The moutia dance of the Seychelles was brought to the islands by African slaves in the 1700s.

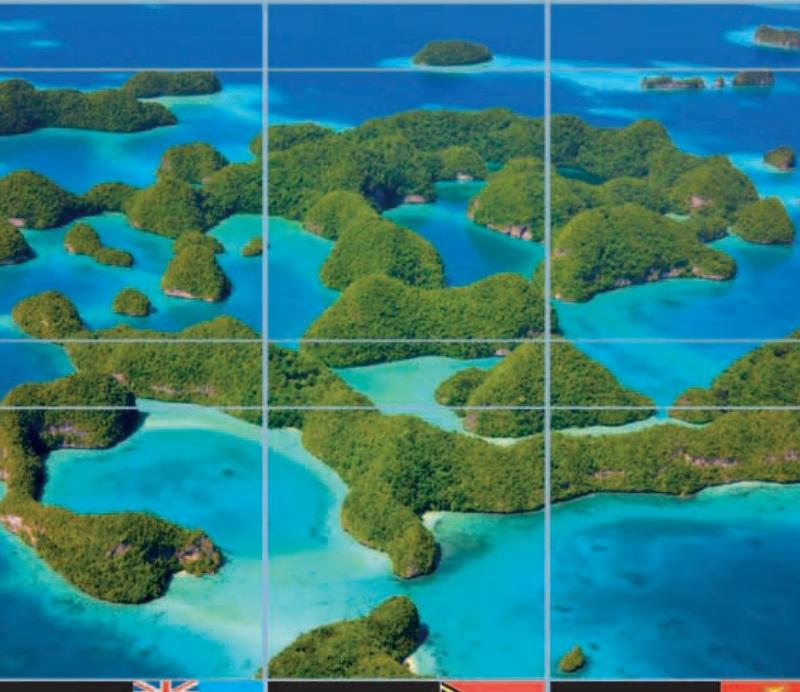
INTERNATIONAL SEAWAYS

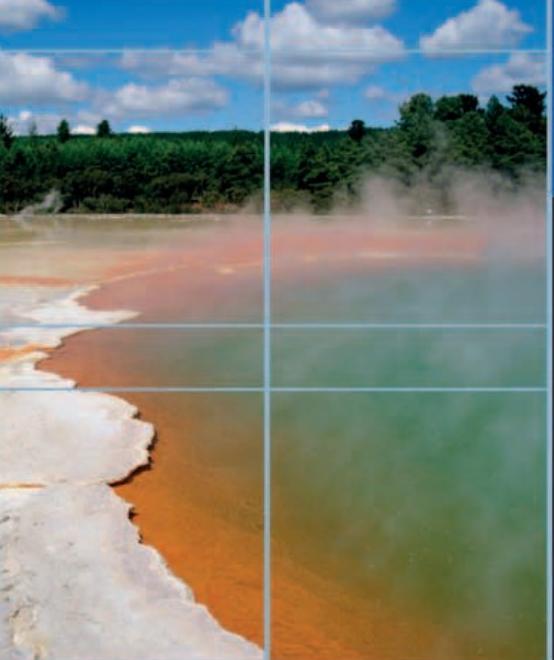
INTERNATIONAL SEAWAYS
The Indian Ocean contains some of the busiest and most important shipping routes in the world. Smaller ships sail to and from the Mediterranean Sea and the ports of Europe and North America through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, while larger freighters and oil tankers from the Persian Gulf around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa.



AUSTRALASIA OCEANIA

Unknown to the outside world before the 1600s, Australia is a still a sparsely inhabited land where most people live in cities. At its heart is a huge arid desert, in stark contrast to the islands of Oceania, where all of life revolves around the glittering ocean. The 3,000 named islands are grouped into nations, listed below in order of land area.

Australia		The thickly wooded Rock Islands of Palau near the Philippines are ancient reefs raised above sea level, fringed by coral sand beaches and blue lagoons.		Micronesia
Australia  2,988,902 sq miles 7,741,220 sq km 21,300,000 Canberra English, Italian, Cantonese, Greek, Arabic, Vietnamese, Aboriginal languages	 The thickly wooded Rock Islands of Palau near the Philippines are ancient reefs raised above sea level, fringed by coral sand beaches and blue lagoons.		 271 sq miles 702 sq km 110,700 Palikir Trukese, Pohnpeian, Kosraean, Yapese, English	
	New Zealand			Palau
	New Zealand  103,363 sq miles 267,710 sq km 4,270,000 Wellington English, Maori	 177 sq miles 459 sq km 20,400 Melekeok Palauan, English, Japanese, Angaur, Tobi, Sonsorolese		
Papa New Guinea		Solomon Islands		Fiji
Papa New Guinea  178,704 sq miles 462,840 sq km 6,730,000 Port Moresby Pidgin English, Papuan, English, Motu, 800 (est) native languages	Solomon Islands  11,157 sq miles 28,896 sq km 523,200 Honiara English, Pidgin English, Melanesian Pidgin, c. 120 other languages	Fiji  7,056 sq miles 18,274 sq km 849,200 Suva Fijian, English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu	Vanuatu  4,706 sq miles 12,189 sq km 239,800 Port-Vila Bislama (Melanesian Pidgin), English, French, other indigenous languages	Kiribati  313 sq miles 811 sq km 99,482 Bairiki (Tarawa Atoll) English, Kiribati
				Samoa
				Samoa  1,093 sq miles 2,831 sq km 178,800 Apia Samoa, English
				Tonga
				Tonga  288 sq miles 747 sq km 104,000 Nuku'Alofa English, Tongan
				Marshall Islands
				Marshall Islands  70 sq miles 181 sq km 65,859 Majuro Marshallese, English, Japanese, German

 <p>The ancestors of today's Pacific Islanders reached their islands by crossing the ocean in giant canoes. Many islanders still rely on the ocean to make a living.</p>					
Tuvalu   10 sq miles  26 sq km  11,100 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fongafale (Funafuti Atol)  Tuvaluan, Kiribati, English	Nauru   8 sq miles  21 sq km  9,800 <input type="checkbox"/> None  Nauruan, Kiribati, Chinese, Tuvaluan, English			 <p>The colorfully named Champagne Pool is one of many hot springs in Rotorua, New Zealand—one of the most volcanically active countries in the world.</p>	

SW Pacific

THE ISLANDS of the southwest Pacific Ocean are home to people of many different cultures and languages. These islands are divided into three general groups based on their location and the similarities between their peoples.

The Polynesian islands to the east include Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Tahiti.

Melanesia includes Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The smallest group, Micronesia, includes the Marshall, Kiribati, and Caroline Islands.

The first Europeans came to the southwest Pacific in the 1600s, several thousand years after the Melanesians, Micronesians, and Polynesians first arrived.

LAND OF MANY LANGUAGES

Historically, the mountainous landscape of Papua New Guinea made contact between villages difficult. As a result of many years of isolation, some villages developed their own individual languages. Nationwide, about 800 different languages evolved.

Men in Papua New Guinea wearing traditional makeup

Beads, shells, and feathers form part of the decoration.

A MIX OF RELIGIONS

Christianity is the dominant religion on most southwest Pacific islands. However Islam and Hinduism are also practiced. Many people also retain beliefs from traditional religions that existed before the islands were colonized by people from Europe and Asia.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
(to U.S.)
Saipan
Rota
HAGATÑA
GUAM
(to U.S.)

ISLAND VACATION
White sandy beaches and warm water makes this region ideal for tourists.



MICRONESIA

Chuuk Islands
Palikir
Pohnpei
Kosrae

C a r o l i n e I s l a n d s

Admiralty Islands
Bismarck Archipelago
Bismarck Sea
New Ireland
Central Range
Madang
Mount Wilhelm 14,793ft (4509m)
Lae
Owen Stanley Range
Gulf of Papua
PORT MORESBY

New Guinea
Solomon Sea
New Britain
Choiseul
Santa Isabel
Malaita
Santa Cruz Islands

S O L O M O N I S L A N D S

HONIARA
Guadalcanal
D'Entrecasteaux Islands
Louiada Archipelago

Corral Sea

CORAL SEA ISLANDS
(to Australia)

VANUATU

Espiritu Santo
Malekula
Maewo
Pentecost
Ambrym
Epi

PORT-VILA

NEW CALEDONIA
(to France)

Erromango
Tanna
Ouvéa
Aneityum
New Caledonia
NOUMÉA

Tropic of Capricorn

Vanuatu tribespeople dancing at a religious ceremony





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Australia

A HUGE, GENERALLY FLAT COUNTRY, Australia has relatively few inhabitants. This is mostly because most of the land is hot, semiarid desert—known as the outback—unsuitable for towns or farms. In places where there is some vegetation or the land has been irrigated, sheep and cattle are grazed. Wheat is grown in the fertile south. The first people to live here were the Aborigines, who arrived from Asia at least 50,000 years ago. Today, most Australians are descendants of European immigrants, with a more recent addition of Asians.



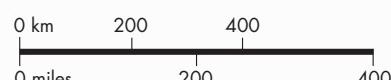
AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

The original inhabitants of Australia had an intimate understanding of the environment. This connection to the land and its plants and animals affects every aspect of their culture. When Europeans started arriving in the late 1700s, only the Aborigines in remote areas escaped contact with the diseases they brought. Today, Aborigines rarely live off the land, but instead work in factories or on farms.



MINING

Australia has one of the world's most important mining industries, with resources including gold (left), coal, natural gas, iron ore, copper, and opals. However, damage to the environment—and Aboriginal claims over land used for mining—still need to be faced.



AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

A popular sport here is Australian Rules Football. One of the rules is that players can kick or punch the ball, but they must not throw it. Many Australians either play the game themselves or support their favorite team. As the name implies, the game originated in Australia, but it now has leagues in other countries, such as Great Britain and the U.S.

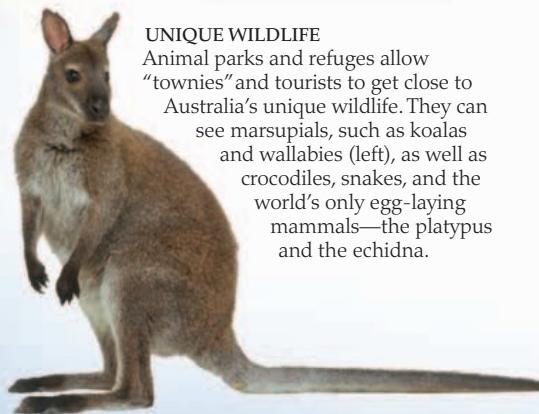


OUTDOOR SPORTS
A warm climate, with easy access to beaches and wilderness areas, has made outdoor activities an important part of modern Australian life. Watersports, such as swimming, sailing, and surfing, are especially popular. Because of the danger of exposure to strong sunlight, people are told to cover up and always use sunscreen.





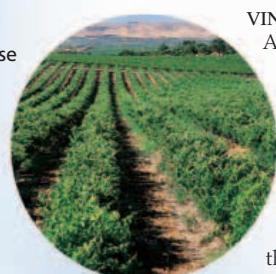
UNIQUE WILDLIFE
Animal parks and refuges allow "townies" and tourists to get close to Australia's unique wildlife. They can see marsupials, such as koalas and wallabies (left), as well as crocodiles, snakes, and the world's only egg-laying mammals—the platypus and the echidna.



Voting in government elections in Australia is compulsory. Citizens who fail to vote can be fined.



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
Tourism is important to Australia's economy, and there is plenty to attract visitors. Popular destinations include the tropical waters around the Great Barrier Reef (above), the modern cities of Sydney and Melbourne, and the impressive sight of Uluru (Ayers Rock), a mountainous rock sacred to the Aborigines.



VINEYARDS
Australia boasts an impressive range of high-quality wine-growing regions, specializing in different grapes. Wines are exported to more than 90 countries.



LIFE IN CITIES
Most Australians live in the coastal towns and cities of southeastern Australia, where the climate is cooler. Although Canberra is the capital, Sydney is the largest and oldest city and is beautifully situated around Sydney Harbor. One of the world's most famous landmarks is Sydney Opera House (below), which has five separate auditoriums for concerts, operas, and plays. The design echoes the sails of a ship.

New Zealand



MADE UP OF TWO MAIN ISLANDS and several smaller ones, New Zealand is one of the most isolated countries in the world. Located in the southern Pacific, the country has a mild climate, with warm summers and cool, wet winters. Both main islands have mountains, short, swift-flowing rivers, forests, and fertile farmland. Until the Europeans arrived, most of the landscape was covered in dense forest known as native bush. Today, although forests remain, most has been cleared for farming. Most New Zealanders live on North Island, which is warmer and less mountainous. Although New Zealanders are of mostly British descent the Maoris—a people of Polynesian origin—were the first to arrive about 1,000 years ago. Today, non-Maori Polynesians and Asians are adding to the ethnic mix. The country has a liberal, clean, “green” image and a high standard of living.

AUCKLAND With its safe harbor and nearby scenic islands, Auckland is known as the “city of sails”. It boasts more pleasure boats per person than anywhere else in the world. The water that separates the bigger islands is home to dolphins, families of blue penguins, and the occasional whale.

Three Islands
Cape Reinga

Europeans arrived, most of the landscape was covered in dense forest known as native bush. Today, although forests remain, most has been cleared for farming. Most New Zealanders live on North Island, which is warmer and less mountainous. Although New Zealanders are of mostly British descent, the Maoris—a people of Polynesian origin—were the first to arrive about 1,000 years ago. Today, non-Maori Polynesians and Asians are adding to the ethnic mix. The country has a liberal, clean, “green” image and a high standard of living.

MĀORI CULTURE

Māoris make up almost 16 percent of the population, with most living on North Island. Before the coming of the *Pakeha* (white man), Māori history was orally passed on to succeeding generations. This included many legends and *waiata* (songs). Their carvings in wood (left) and stone (right) were another way in which they recorded and remembered events. In recent years, interest in Māori culture has increased, and schoolchildren are now taught the Māori language.

Greenstone
(jade) carving,
an example of
Maori art

Greenstone
(jade) carving,
an example of
Māori art

A map of the Northland coastline of New Zealand, highlighting several key locations along the coast. The locations labeled are: Three Kings Islands, Cape Reinga, North Cape, Great Exhibition Bay, Te Kao, Ninety Mile Beach, Kaitaia, Okahau, Kailohe, and Hobkanga Harbour. The map shows the coastline curving from the top right towards the bottom left, with the locations marked along the way.

AUCKLAND With its safe harbor and nearby scenic islands, Auckland is known as the “city of sails”. It boasts more pleasure boats per person than anywhere else in the world. The water that separates the bigger islands is home to dolphins, families of blue penguins, and the occasional whale.

Kaiparawhau-
Tasman

A photograph of five Maori men in traditional dress performing a haka. They are wearing patterned singlets and woven skirts. In the foreground, a large, intricately carved wooden figure (a Taiaha) is visible.

the vote.

ACROSS OCEAN

Sea a

North Taranaki Bight

Hunty Morrisville Hamilton Cambridge Otorohanga Te Kuiti Huntly Taranaki Bight Waitara Ohura Taumarunui Turangi New Plymouth Stratford Hawera Taranaki Bight

Katikati Matamata Lake Rotorua Rotorua Tokoroa Murupara Whakatane Opotiki Kawerau Rotorua Rotorua

Tauranga Matamata Lake Rotorua

Lake Taupo

Gisborne Poverty Bay Wairoa Hawke Bay Napier Hastings Havelock North Waipawa Waipukurau Dannevirke Woodville Levin Pahiatua Cape Turnagain D'Urville Island

East Cape Ruapehu Range Mahia Peninsula

Mount Ruapehu 9177ft (2979m)

Mount Egmont 7565ft (2518m)

(c) 2011 Dorling Kindersley. All Rights Reserved.



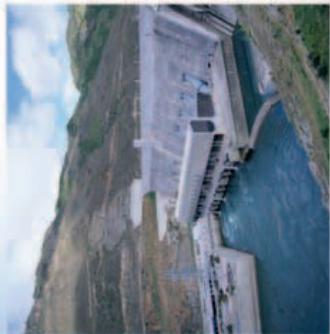
FILM INDUSTRY
New Zealand has a well-established film industry. Today, thanks to the acclaimed Tolkien trilogy *Lord of the Rings* (above), the country has become increasingly popular with international studios for location work. The country offers an unusually wide range of scenery, as well as technical experts.

AN AGRICULTURAL NATION
Agriculture is of prime importance, and it accounts for more than half of national export earnings. Orchards produce a wide range of fruit, from apples (above) to kiwi fruit (below). Cereals and other crops, such as sunflowers, add color and variety to the landscape. Traditional sheep and cattle farming has expanded to include deer, goats, and even ostrich.



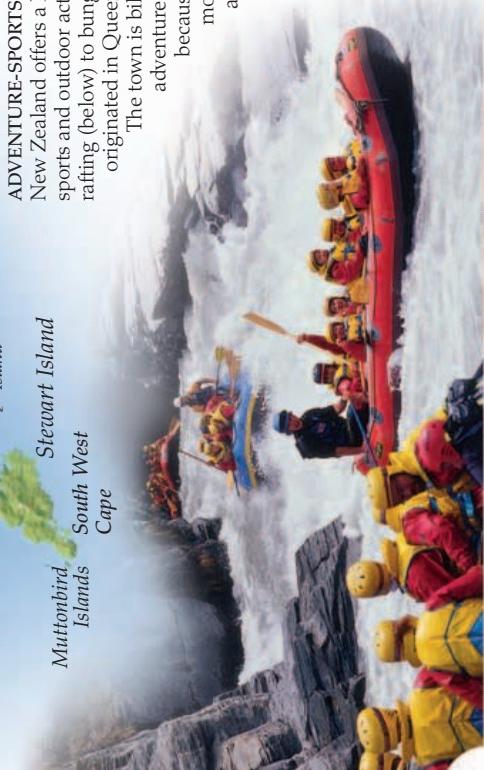
UNIQUE WILDLIFE
New Zealand has many unique and endangered animal species, especially birds. There were no mammal predators before humans introduced them, so many animal species have few means of defense, and some birds, such as the kiwi, cannot fly. Conservation programs are now in place to protect endangered species.

GREEN ENERGY
Most of the country's electricity comes from hydroelectric power. It is generated by river water gushing through turbines inside dams at power plants. New Zealand also has geothermal energy, using heat taken from inside Earth.



ADVENTURE-SPORTS PARADISE
New Zealand offers a huge range of adventure sports and outdoor activities, from white-water rafting (below) to bungee jumping. The latter originated in Queenstown on South Island.

The town is billed as the country's top adventure-tourism destination because its surrounding lakes, mountains, and rivers—and its mostly dry climate—are ideal for outdoor pursuits.



Pacific Ocean

THE LARGEST OCEAN ON EARTH, the Pacific covers one third of Earth's surface. The island nations of Japan, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and many others are completely surrounded by this enormous ocean, which stretches from the Arctic in the north to the Antarctic in the south. The Pacific is also the world's deepest ocean—its greatest known depth is in the Mariana Trench, off Guam, which plunges steeply for 36,198 ft (11,033 m). Within the Pacific, there are many smaller seas that lie near land. These include the Tasman Sea, the South China Sea, and the Bering Sea. There are more than 30,000 islands in the Pacific. Most are too small or barren to be inhabited, but others are home to people of many different cultures and religions. The native island peoples fall into three main groups—Polynesians, Melanesians, and Micronesians. Although the word *pacific* means "peaceful," strong currents, tropical storms, and tsunamis can all make this ocean far from peaceful.

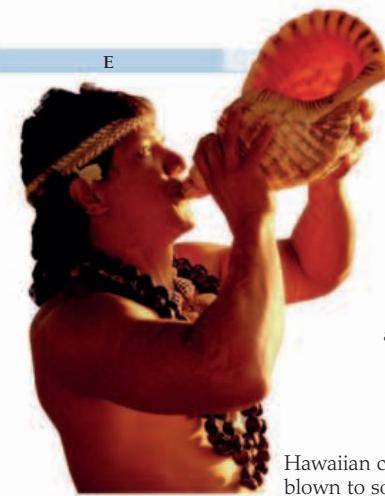
TSUNAMI

Earthquakes beneath the Ocean may cause giant waves called tsunamis.

These can travel great distances across the ocean, building into a huge wall of water as they approach the coast. They can leave immense damage in their wake.

**SURFING**

The Hawaiian sport of surfing ranks as the oldest sport in the USA. It was first practiced by the nobility as a form of religious ceremony until the 1820s, when missionaries, who thought it was immoral, tried to ban it. Today, surfing is one of the most popular watersports and can be enjoyed all over the world, from Australia to the U.K.

**HAWAII**

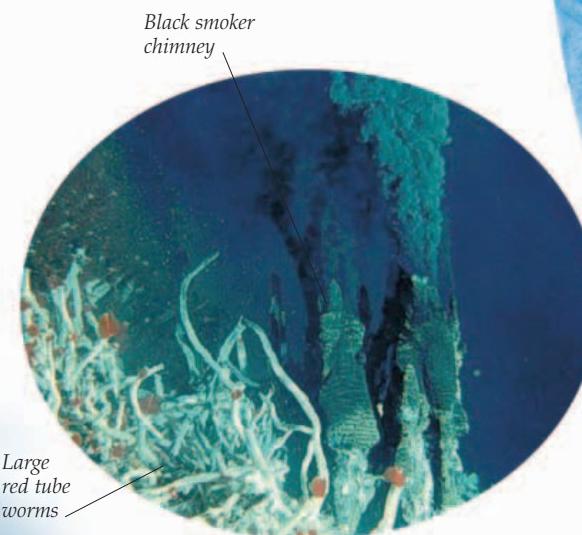
This chain of eight volcanic islands and 124 islets forms the 50th state of the United States of America, and was admitted to the union in 1959. The dramatic landscape and palm-fringed beaches make Hawaii a popular destination for tourists. Today, native Hawaiians are a minority in their own land.



Marine iguana on
black volcanic rocks,
Galápagos Islands

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

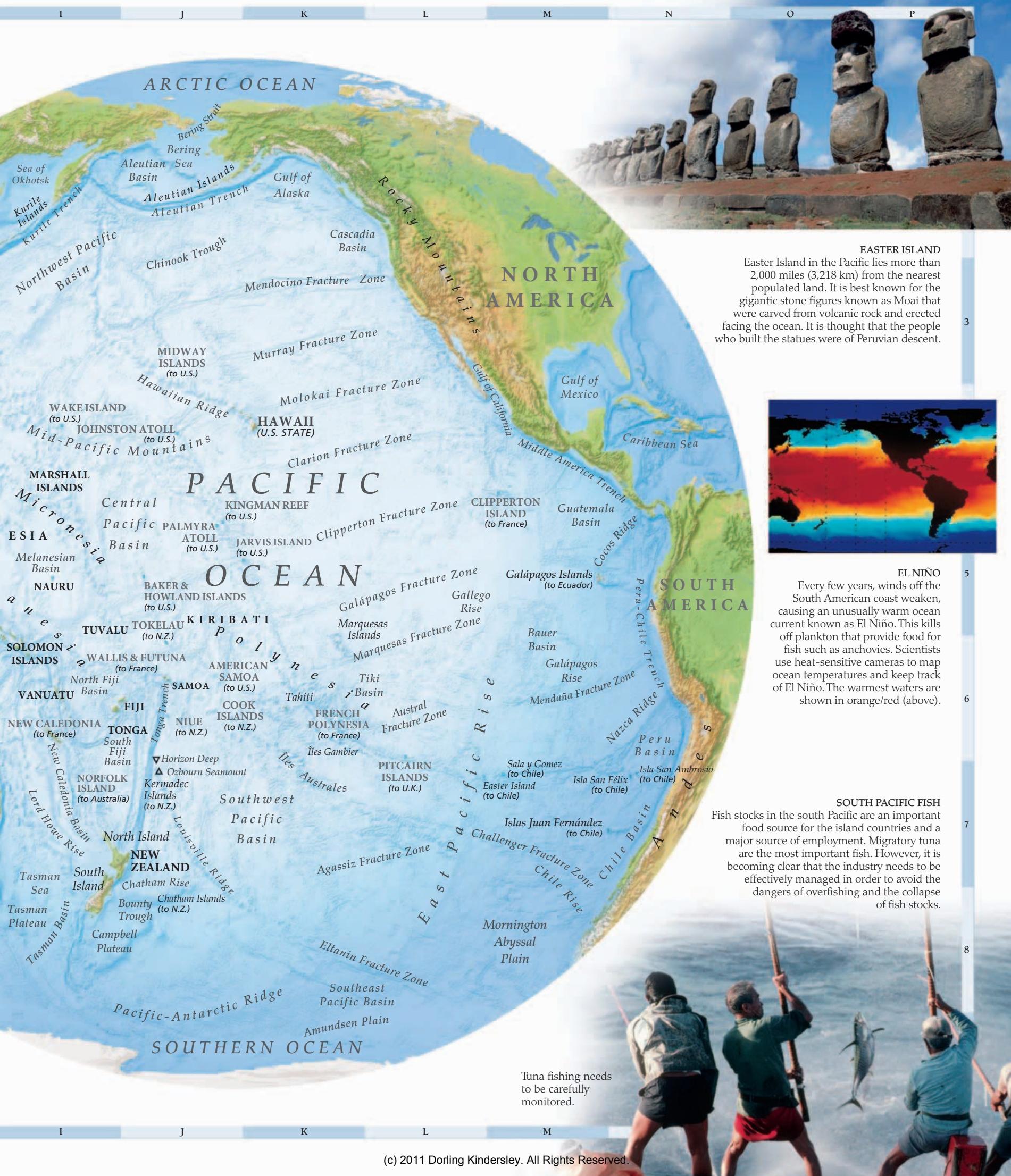
When British naturalist Charles Darwin (1809–1882) traveled to the Galápagos Islands, he found many unusual animals. He also noticed differences between animals of the same species living elsewhere. This led him to believe that, over time, animals adapt, or evolve, to suit their habitats.

**DEEP-SEA VENTS**

Underwater exploration has revealed some amazing places deep in the Pacific. Large vents, formed by solidified minerals, act as chimneys for super-hot steam and gas that stream up from the sea bed. These vents are known as black smokers. Scientists have found a variety of new creatures living in this hostile environment.

The Pacific is larger than Earth's entire land surface.

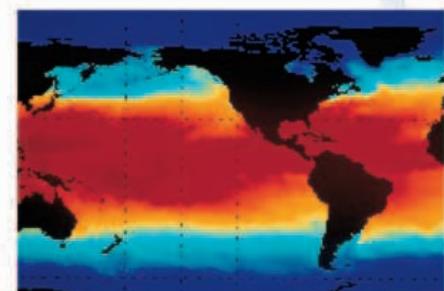




EASTER ISLAND

EASTER ISLAND

Easter Island in the Pacific lies more than 2,000 miles (3,218 km) from the nearest populated land. It is best known for the gigantic stone figures known as Moai that were carved from volcanic rock and erected facing the ocean. It is thought that the people who built the statues were of Peruvian descent.



EL NIÑO

EL NIÑO
Every few years, winds off the South American coast weaken, causing an unusually warm ocean current known as El Niño. This kills off plankton that provide food for fish such as anchovies. Scientists use heat-sensitive cameras to map ocean temperatures and keep track of El Niño. The warmest waters are shown in orange/red (above).

SOUTH PACIFIC FISH

Fish stocks in the south Pacific are an important food source for the island countries and a major source of employment. Migratory tuna are the most important fish. However, it is becoming clear that the industry needs to be effectively managed in order to avoid the dangers of overfishing and the collapse of fish stocks.



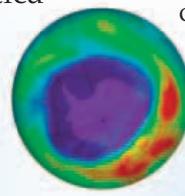
Antarctica

THE FROZEN CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA is covered by a vast icecap, many thousands of years old, and surrounded by the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean. It is the only continent with no permanent inhabitants—the only people who come here are scientists or tourists. Although the land is rich in oil and minerals, mining is prohibited under the laws of the Antarctic Treaty. This Treaty, agreed by 45 countries, made Antarctica a “continent for science” to be used for peaceful purposes only.



OZONE HOLE

High up in the atmosphere, ozone (a gas) forms a natural shield that protects us from the Sun's ultraviolet rays. Scientists at both poles have found holes in the ozone layer, caused by chemicals known as CFCs, once used in aerosols, fridges, and plastic packaging.



Sanae (South Africa)
Georg von Neumayer (Germany)
Novolazarevskaya (Russian Federation)
Dronning Maud Land

Halley (U.K.)
Coats Land
Belgrano II (Argentina)



KRILL

Tiny, shrimp-like creatures, krill are the primary food source for a large number of Antarctic animals. These include whales, seals, penguins, squids, and fish.

ANTARCTICA

Vinson Massif 16,066ft (4897m)
Amundsen-Scott South Pole
Ellsworth Land
Mount Kirkpatrick 14,856 ft (4528m)
Mount Markham 14,275ft (4351m)
Mount Sidley 13,717ft (4181m)
Transantarctic Mountains
Roosevelt Island
McMurdo Base (U.S.)
Mount Erebus 12,448ft (3794m)
Ross Ice Shelf
Victoria Land
Cape Adare
Leningradskaya (Russian Federation)
George V Land
Dumont d'Urville (France)
South Geomagnetic Pole +
Antarctic Circle
Balleny Islands

East

Antarctica

Vostok (Russian Federation)

Wilkes Land

Cape Poinsett
Casey (Australia)

Terre Adélie

Dumont d'Urville (France)
South Geomagnetic Pole +

Emperor penguins huddling for warmth

PENGUINS

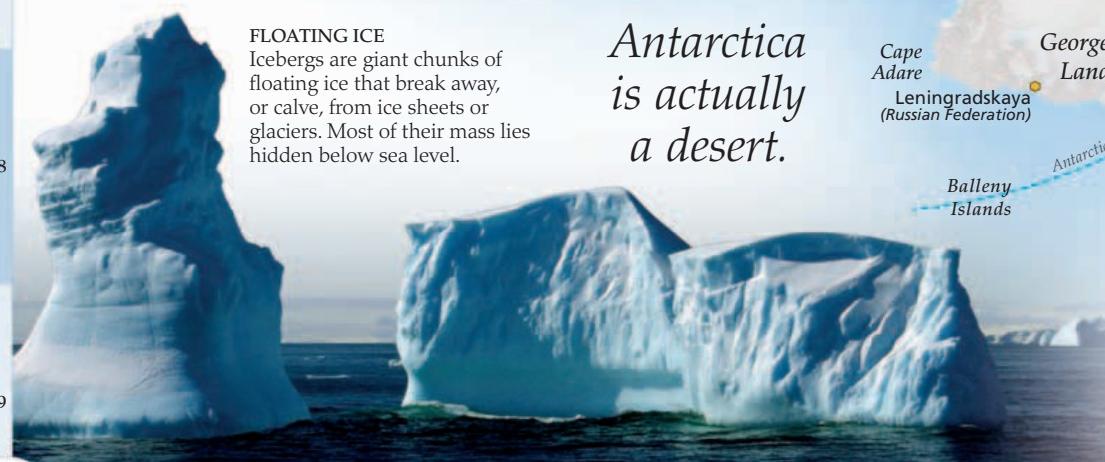
Penguins walk awkwardly on land but can swiftly swim to catch fish. Waterproof feathers and a thick layer of fat help keep them warm.

Scientist checking an ice core

FLOATING ICE

Icebergs are giant chunks of floating ice that break away, or calve, from ice sheets or glaciers. Most of their mass lies hidden below sea level.

Antarctica is actually a desert.



DAYTRIPPERS

Tourists visit Antarctica in the summer. There are no hotels, so visitors generally stay on small cruise ships. When they come ashore, people have to wear insulated clothing and goggles to protect their eyes from the glare off the ice.





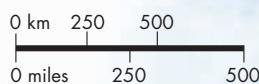
Arctic Ocean

THE SMALLEST OF THE WORLD's oceans, the Arctic is almost completely surrounded by the northern edges of North America, Europe, and Asia. For most of the year, its waters are covered by a thick sheet of ice, although warmer currents from the Pacific and Atlantic oceans melt the ice along the continental coasts for a short time in the summer. Despite the harsh conditions, the region is home to a range of wildlife, such as reindeer, musk oxen, foxes, and wolves. Some people, including the Inuit of Canada and the Sami of northern Scandinavia, have also adapted to this tough environment.



ALASKAN OIL
Reserves of oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea, off the coast of Alaska, have attracted interest. However, the introduction of ships and oil platforms brings problems. In a bid to protect the area, several environmental organizations are actively working to prevent drilling for more oil in this area.

*Walrus breed
off the Arctic
coasts.*



ARCTIC SURVIVORS

Polar bears live along the Arctic coasts of Canada, Greenland, and Russia. They hunt seals and fish at points where the sea ice melts. With so much Arctic ice having melted away in recent years, the polar bear's habitat is slowly disappearing. An insulating layer of fat called blubber helps the bears survive the cold. Their white fur also provides essential camouflage on the ice.



LONG DAYS

LONG DAYS
Seasons at the poles are extreme. Polar summers are short, but there can be sunshine for 24 hours a day as the Sun never dips below the horizon (above). This is because Earth rotates at an angle to the Sun.



NORTHERN LIGHTS

In midwinter, the north polar skies are sometimes lit up by dramatic curtains of red and green light. Known as the northern lights, these special effects are caused by disturbances in the upper atmosphere. The same happens near Antarctica, where the effect is called the southern lights.

Gazetteer

HOW TO USE THE GAZETTEER

This gazetteer is a selection of the names in *Children's World Atlas*, and can be used to help you find places on the maps. For example, to find the city of Lisbon in Portugal, look up its name in the gazetteer. The entry reads:

Lisbon Capital Portugal 58 E6

The first number, 58, tells you that Lisbon appears on the map on page 58. The second number, E6, shows that it is in square E6. Turn to page 58. Trace down from the letter E along the top of the grid (or up from the letter E on the bottom of the grid), and then across from the number 6 on the side of the grid. You will find Lisbon in the area where the letter and number meet.

A

Aachen Town Germany 56 B7
Aalborg Town Denmark 49 B11
Aalen Town Germany 57 E9
Aalst Town Belgium 53 D11
Aalter Town Belgium 53 C10
Äänekoski Town Finland 48 G8
Aba Town Nigeria 41 L8
Aba Town Democratic Republic of Congo 42 I8
Äbādān Town Iran 82 E7
Abakan Town Russian Federation 78 H7
Abbeville Town France 54 E5
Abéché Town Chad 42 F6
Abengourou Town Côte d'Ivoire 41 I8
Aberdeen Town South Dakota, USA 12 G4
Aberdeen Town Maryland, USA 9 H8
Aberdeen Town Scotland, UK 50 F5
Aberystwyth Town Wales, UK 51 E10
Abhā Town Saudi Arabia 83 C11
Abidjan Town Côte d'Ivoire 40 H8
Abilene Town Texas, USA 17 K5
Åbo see Turku
Abomey Town Benin 41 J7
Abrantes Town Portugal 58 F6
Abu Dhabi Capital United Arab Emirates 83 F9
Abu Hamed Town Sudan 38 E6
Abuja Capital Nigeria 41 L7
Abū Kamāl Town Syria 80 I7
Abū Ḥabīb see Abu Dhabi
Acapulco Town Mexico 19 J9
Acarigua Town Venezuela 26 D5
Accra Capital Ghana 41 I8
Aconcagua, Cerro Mountain Argentina 30 D7
A Coruña Town Spain 58 E2
Açu Town Brazil 29 M3
Adamawa Highlands Mountain range Cameroon 42 D8
'Adan see Aden
Adana Town Turkey 76 G6
Adapazarı Town Turkey 76 E4
Ad Dahnā' Desert Saudi Arabia 83 E9
Ad Dakhla Town Western Sahara 36 C7
Ad Dammān Town Saudi Arabia 83 E9
Ad Dawlāh see Doha
Addis Ababa Capital Ethiopia 39 F9

Adelaide Town South Australia, Australia 105 J7
Aden Town Yemen 83 D13
Aden, Gulf of Indian Ocean 83 E13
Adirondack Mountains New York, USA 8 H4
Ādīs Ābēba see Addis Ababa
Adiyaman Town Turkey 76 H6
Adrar Town Algeria 36 G6
Aegean Sea Greece 67 F9
Afghanistan Country 84 H7
Afmadow Town Somalia 39 G11
Afyon Town Turkey 76 E5
Agadez Town Niger 41 L4
Agadir Town Morocco 36 E5
Agen Town France 55 D10
Agialoúsa Town Cyprus 80 B7
Āgrā Town India 87 I3
Āgrī Town Turkey 77 K4
Agrigento Town Sicily, Italy 61 E13
Agropoli Town Italy 61 F10
Aguachica Town Colombia 26 C5
Aqua Prieta Town Mexico 18 F3
Aguascalientes Town Mexico 19 I7
Aguaytía Town Peru 27 B10
Aguilas Town Spain 59 J8
Aguililla Town Mexico 19 I8
Ahaggar Mountain range Algeria 37 I7
Ahlen Town Germany 56 C7
Ahmadābād Town India 86 G4
Ahuachapán Town El Salvador 20 E5
Ahvāz Town Iran 82 E7
Aiken Town South Carolina, USA 11 J4
Aligandí Town Panama 21 N7
A'in Ben Tili Town Mauritania 40 G2
Aiquile Town Bolivia 27 E12
Air, Massif de l' Mountain range Niger 41 L4
Aix-en-Provence Town France 55 G11
Aizu Town Japan 93 G9
Ajaccio Town France 55 I13
Ajo Town Arizona, USA 16 E5
Akchār Desert Mauritania 40 E3
Akhalt'sikhe Town Georgia 77 K3
Akhisar Town Turkey 76 C5
Aktubinsk Town Russian Federation 73 D11
Akita Town Japan 92 F8
Akjoujt Town Mauritania 40 E3
Akkeshi Town Japan 92 H5
Akron Town Ohio, USA 13 M6
Akrotírion Town Cyprus 80 A8
Aksai Chin Administrative region China 88 D6
Aksaray Town Turkey 76 F5
Akşehir Town Turkey 76 E5
Aktau Town Kazakhstan 78 D6
Aktobe Town Kazakhstan 78 E6
Aktyabrski Town Belarus 71 F11
Akula Town Democratic Republic of Congo 43 F9
Akune Town Japan 93 B14
Alabama State USA 10 G5
Alabama River Alabama, USA 10 G6
Al 'Amārah Town Iraq 82 D7
Alamo Town Nevada, USA 14 H7
Alamogordo Town New Mexico, USA 16 H5
Åland Island group Finland 49 F9
Alanya Town Turkey 76 E7
Al 'Aqabah Town Jordan 81 D14
Alaşehir Town Turkey 76 D5
Alaska Province Canada 4 E5
Alaska, Gulf of Alaska, USA 4 E6
Alaska Range Mountain Range Alaska, USA 4 E5
Albacete Town Spain 59 J6
Alba Iulia Town Romania 68 E6
Albania Country 65 F12
Albany River Ontario, Canada 6 F5
Albany Town Western Australia, Australia 104 E7
Albany Town Georgia, USA 10 H6
Albany Town New York, USA 9 I5
Al Bāridah Town Syria 80 F8
Al Başrah Town Iraq 82 D7
Alberta Province Canada 4 H7
Albert, Lake Democratic Republic of Congo 43 I9
Albuquerque Town New Mexico, USA 16 H4
Alcañiz Town Spain 59 K5
Alcoy Town Spain 59 K7
Alderney Island Channel Islands, UK 51 G13
Aleksin Town Russian Federation 73 C9
Alençon Town France 54 D7
Alenquer Town Brazil 29 I2
Aleppo Town Syria 80 E6
Alessandria Town Italy 60 C5
Aleutian Islands Island Group Alaska, USA 4 B5
Alexander Archipelago Island British Columbia, Canada 4 E7
Alexandria Town Louisiana, USA 10 E6
Alexandria Town Egypt 38 D4
Alexandria Town Romania 68 F7
Alexandroúpoli Town Greece 66 G8
Alga Town Kazakhstan 78 E6
Algarve Region Spain 58 E8
Algeciras Town Spain 58 G9
Alger see Algiers
Algeria Country 36 H5
Al Ghābah Town Oman 83 G10
Algiers Capital Algeria 36 H3
Algona Town Iowa, USA 12 H5
Al H, asakah Town Syria 80 H5
Al Hillah Town Iraq 82 D7
Al Hudaydah see Hodeida
Al Huffūf Town Saudi Arabia 83 E9
Alártos Town Greece 67 E11
Alicante Town Spain 59 L7
Alice Springs Town Northern Territory, Australia 105 I4
Aliquippa Town Pennsylvania, USA 8 E7
Al Ismā'iliya Town Egypt 38 E4
Al Jāfr Town Jordan 81 E13
Al Jaghbūb Town Libya 37 N5
Al Jahrā' Town Kuwait 82 D8
Al Jawf Town Saudi Arabia 82 B8
Al Jazirah Physical region Syria/Iraq 80 I5
Al Karak Town Jordan 81 E12
Al Khums Town Libya 37 K4
Alkmaar Town Netherlands 52 E7
Al Kufrah Town Libya 37 N7
Al Kút Town Iraq 82 D7
Al Kuwayt see Kuwait
Allahābād Town India 87 I4
Allegheny Plateau Pennsylvania/New York, USA 8 F6
Allentown Town Pennsylvania, USA 9 H7
Al Lith Town Saudi Arabia 83 B11
Alma-Ata see Almaty
Al Madinah see Medina
Al Mafrāq Town Jordan 81 E10
Al Majmā'ah Town Saudi Arabia 83 D9
Al Mālikiyah Town Syria 80 I4
Al Manāmah see Manama
Almansa Town Spain 59 K7
Al Marj Town Libya 37 M4
Almaty Town Kazakhstan 78 G8
Al Mawṣil see Mosul
Al Mayādīn Town Syria 80 H6
Almelo Town Netherlands 52 G8
Almere Town Netherlands 52 F8
Almeria Town Spain 59 J8
Al'met'yevsk Town Russian Federation 73 F9
Al Minyā Town Egypt 38 D4
Almirante Town Panama 21 K8
Al Mukallā Town Yemen 83 E13
Alofi Capital Niue 103 K7
Alotip Town Indonesia 97 N8
Alpena Town Michigan, USA 13 L4
Alpine Town Texas, USA 17 I7
Alps Mountain range Central Europe 57 D12
Al Qāmishlī Town Syria 80 I4
Al Qunaytirah Town Syria 81 D9
Altai Mountains Mountain range Mongolia/Russian Federation 88 F4
Altamaha River Georgia, USA 11 I5
Altamira Town Brazil 29 J2
Altamura Town Italy 61 H10
Altar, Desierto de Desert Mexico 18 D2
Altay Town China 88 F3
Altay Town Mongolia 88 H3
Altin Köprü Town Iraq 82 C6
Altiplano Physical region Bolivia 27 E13
Altoona Town Pennsylvania, USA 9 F7
Altun Ha Ancient site Belize 20 F2
Altun Shan Mountain range China 88 G5
Al 'Umarī Town Jordan 81 F11
Al 'Uwaynāt Town Libya 37 J6
Alupka Town Ukraine 69 K7
Alva Town Oklahoma, USA 17 L3
Al Wajh Town Saudi Arabia 83 A9
Alwar Town India 86 H3
Al Wari'ah Town Saudi Arabia 82 D8
Alytus Town Lithuania 70 D8
Amamapare Town Indonesia 97 N7
Amantea Town Italy 61 G12
Amarapura Town Myanmar 94 B6
Amarillo Town Texas, USA 17 J4
Amazon River Brazil 29 J2
Amazon Basin Brazil 28 G3
Ambanja Town Madagascar 45 M4
Ambarchik Town Russian Federation 78 L3
Ambato Town Ecuador 26 A8
Amboasary Town Madagascar 45 L7
Ambon Town Indonesia 97 K7
American Samoa Dependent territory USA, Pacific Ocean 103 K6
Amersfoort Town Netherlands 52 F8
Amfilochia Town Greece 67 C10
Amherst Town Nova Scotia, Canada 7 K7
Amiens Town France 54 E6
Amman Capital Jordan 81 E11
'Ammān see Amman
Ammóchostos Town Cyprus 80 B8
Āmol Town Iran 82 F5
Amos Town Québec, Canada 6 H6
Amritsar Town India 86 H2
Amstelveen Town Netherlands 52 F8
Amsterdam Capital Netherlands 52 E8
Am Timan Town Chad 42 F6
Amundsen Gulf Canada 4 H4
Amundsen-Scott Research station Antarctica 110 E6
Amundsen Sea Southern Ocean 110 B7
Amuntai Town Indonesia 96 H7
Amur River China 89 L2
Amyderýa River Uzbekistan 84 G4
Anadyr' Town Russian Federation 78 M2
Anamur Town Turkey 76 F7
Anápolis Town Brazil 29 K5
Anatolia Plateau Turkey 76 E6
Anchorage Town Alaska, Canada 4 E5
Ancona Town Italy 60 F7
Andalucía Region Spain 58 H8
Andaman Islands Island group India 87 M8
Andaman Sea Indian Ocean 87 M8
Anderson Town Indiana, USA 13 K6
Andes Mountain range South America 26–27, 30–31
Andijon Town Uzbekistan 85 K4
Andkhvoy Town Afghanistan 84 H5
Andorra Country 55 D12
Andorra la Vella Capital Andorra 55 D12
Andreanof Islands Island Group Alaska, USA 4 A4
Andrews Town Texas, USA 17 J5
Andria Town Italy 61 H10
Andros Island Bahamas 22 F2
Andros Town Town Bahamas 22 F2
Angarsk Town Russian Federation 79 I7
Angelos Town Philippines 97 I2
Angel Falls Waterfall Venezuela 26 F6
Ångermanälven River Sweden 48 E7
Angers Town France 54 C7
Angkor Wat Ancient site Cambodia 95 F10
Anglesey Island Wales, UK 51 E9
Angola Country 44 E3
Angola Basin Undersea feature Atlantic Ocean 33 M6
Angoulême Town France 55 D9
Angren Town Uzbekistan 85 J3
Anguilla Dependent territory UK, Atlantic Ocean 23 N5
Anhui Administrative region China 91 J5
Ankara Capital Turkey 76 F4
Annaba Town Algeria 37 I3
An Nafud Desert Saudi Arabia 82 B8
'Annah Town Iraq 82 C6
An Najaf Town Iraq 82 C7
Annamitique, Chaîne Mountain range Laos 94 F8
Annapolis Town Maryland, USA 8 G8
Ann Arbor Town Michigan, USA 13 L5

An Nāśirīyah *Town* Iraq 82 D7
 Annecy *Town* France 55 G9
 Anniston *Town* Alabama, USA 10 H4
 Anqing *Town* China 91 J6
 Anshan *Town* China 91 L2
 Anshun *Town* China 90 G7
 Antakya *Town* Turkey 76 H7
 Antalya *Town* Turkey 76 E6
 Antananarivo *Capital* Madagascar 45 M5
 Antarctica 110
 Antarctic Peninsula *Antarctica* 110 B4
 Antibes *Town* France 55 H11
 Anticosti, Île d' *Island* Québec, Canada 7 K5
 Antigua Island *Antigua & Barbuda* 23 N6
 Antigua & Barbuda *Country* 23 N5
 Anti-Lebanon *Mountain range* Syria 81 E9
 Antofagasta *Town* Chile 30 D5
 Antony *Town* France 54 E7
 Antsiranana *Town* Madagascar 45 M3
 Antwerp *Town* Belgium 53 E10
 Antwerpen *see* Antwerp
 Anyang *Town* China 91 J4
 Anzio *Town* Italy 61 E9
 Aomen *see* Macao
 Aomori *Town* Japan 92 F7
 Aoraki *Mountain* New Zealand 107 C11
 Aosta *Town* Italy 60 B4
 Aozou *Town* Chad 42 E3
 Apatit *Town* Russian Federation 72 D5
 Apeldoorn *Town* Netherlands 52 F8
 Apennines *Mountain range* Italy 60 C8
 Āpia *Capital* Samoa 103 K7
 Apoera *Town* Suriname 26 G6
 Appalachian Mountains *USA* 8 H4
 Appingedam *Town* Netherlands 52 G6
 Appleton *Town* Wisconsin, USA 13 J4
 Apuseni, Munții *Mountain range*
 Romania 68 E5
 Āqchah *Town* Afghanistan 85 I5
 Aquidauana *Town* Brazil 29 I6
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CHILDREN'S WORLD ATLAS

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